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Japan

Japan: Police Start Security Operation for Clinton Visit

OW0704102996 Tokyo KYODO in English 1024 GMT 7 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO — The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) launched an operation Sunday [7 April] to enhance the capital's security to prepare for the April 16-18 visit to Japan by U.S. President Bill Clinton and first lady Hillary Clinton, MPD officials said.

The MPD mobilized some 22,000 police officers for Tokyo and the sate guesthouse in particular, where the couple will stay during the visit and which is the venue for talks between Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

Because the two leaders are expected to propose strengthened Japan-U.S. security arrangements, with the talks held against a background of controversy over U.S. bases in Okinawa, police will be keeping an eye on moves by radical leftists as well as rightists, the officials said.

Police will also be careful in guarding facilities related to the U.S. military, and will even prepare for the contingency of international terrorism against the facilities by Islamic extremists, they said.

Japan: Hashimoto, Clinton Expected To Approve Defense Rules Revision

OW0604081496 Tokyo KYODO in English 0810 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO — Japan and the United States will confirm their intention to revise bilateral defense cooperation guidelines during U.S. President Bill Clinton's upcoming visit to Tokyo, government sources said Saturday [6 April].

The revision will focus on cooperation between Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) and U.S. troops in the event of a destabilizing occurrence in the Far East region, the sources said.

As a result, a joint declaration on the bilateral security alliance to be issued during Clinton's April 16-18 official visit will incorporate a passage calling for the promotion of Japan-U.S. defense cooperation.

A special committee grouping senior Foreign Ministry and Defense officials as well as military commanders will be set up in late April to discuss the revision of the guidelines, the sources said.

A senior Defense Agency official said that by reaffirming the need to revise the guidelines, both Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Clinton will demonstrate the strengthening of the bilateral security framework while adding political impetus to the revision talks.

The guidelines, which were drawn up in 1978, are based on the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty and stipulate certain joint response measures for a number of scenarios such as an invasion of Japan.

Although both sides agreed in 1982 to study ways to deal with a security threat in the Far East, "virtually nothing was done," according to a government source, for fear of creating the impression of collective defense, which many believe is not compatible with Japan's pacifist Constitution.

However, given uncertainties over developments on the Korean peninsula and tensions between China and Taiwan, Tokyo "feels the need to clarify again as to what extent Japan could cooperate with the United States if something happened in the Far East," a Defense Agency source said.

But the source said there was no plan to change the interpretation of the Constitution since the U.S. is asking Japan to cooperate as much as possible within the constitutional realm.

Japan: Hashimoto on Clinton Visit, Affirming Security Agreement

OW0604125496 Tokyo KYODO in English 1250 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Takamatsu, Japan, April 6 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Saturday [6 April] he will reconfirm the importance of the bilateral security ties between Japan and the United States in a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton on April 17.

"We are going to confirm the importance of the Japan-U.S. relations and reaffirm for the new era the Japan-U.S. security regime, the cornerstone for the ties," he said in a speech at the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Kagawa chapter in Takamatsu on the island of Shikoku.

"I would also like to convince Japanese people that it is important not only for the two countries but for peace and stability for the entire world that Japan and the U.S. go hand in hand," he said.

Hashimoto also reiterated his determination to make every effort to solve the problems concerning U.S. forces bases in Okinawa.

"I will tackle head-on the difficult task of streamlining, integrating and reducing the U.S. forces bases in Okinawa," he said, stressing the need to enlighten the burden [as received] on Okinawa residents due to the heavy concentration of U.S. bases in the prefecture.

Meanwhile, Ichiro Ozawa, the head of the main opposition party Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), said his party has no plan to cooperate with the ruling coalition for passing the budget bills before Clinton's visit.

Since the passage of the budget bills is an internal affair, it has nothing to do with the Japan-U.S. summit, Ozawa said, giving a cold shoulder to the ruling alliance's attempt to pass the fiscal 1996 budget bills before Clinton's visit.

Ozawa made the remarks in a press conference in Iwaki, Fukushima prefecture.

Japan: Hashimoto 'Irritated' by U.S. Base Land Problem

OW0504133296 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 4 Apr 96 p 35

[FBIS Translated Text] The issue of the government's "illegal occupation" of land at the Sobe communications facility in Okinawa is becoming a serious problem for Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who is to hold summit talks with the U.S. President 16-18 April. He had hoped the situation at the communications site would be normalized before President Clinton's visit to Japan, with the Okinawa Prefectural Expropriation Committee giving an approval for an emergency lease on the land, but things went wrong.

Although he seems to be clinging to the hope approval might still be given, he looks irritated.

The government's miscalculation became apparent when the expropriation committee decided to hold its first meeting on 12 April. Since it is likely to be impossible for the committee to approve an emergency lease at the first meeting, it is almost certain the summit talks will be held while the land is "illegally occupied."

Some government officials grumble that "before even starting talks with the U.S. President, the prime minister will have to say 'I am sorry' for not fully implementing a promise based on the security pact."

Japan: 'Foreign Ministry Sources' Laud U.S. Base Task Force Report

OW0704100596 Tokyo KYODO in English 0955 GMT 7 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO — Japan and the United States have agreed in principle to list the return of a key U.S. airfield in Okinawa as their future "task" in an interim joint task force report on consolidation of military bases in the southwestern Japanese island prefecture, according to Japanese Government sources.

The two sides also agreed to pledge in the report efforts toward the future reduction and eventual return of the Futenma airfield, pointing out that it is a heavy burden on local people, the sources said.

But the special action committee report will not mention the Kadena airfield, another matter of concern to Okinawa, they said. The U.S. military has two airfields in Okinawa.

The lack of reference to the prospect of Futenma being returned is likely to trigger an angry reaction from Okinawa, but Foreign Ministry sources hailed the accord, calling it "the biggest achievement in the interim report" because the U.S. once threatened to have the report drop any specific reference to Futenma.

The report is to be adopted April 15 at the committee's third meeting, to be held in Tokyo ahead of U.S. President Bill Clinton's April 16-18 state visit, and then endorsed by a bilateral ministerial meeting involving the defense chiefs of the two countries later in the day. A final report is due in November.

The sources said the report will also incorporate the following, among other things:

— The return of some drilling facilities, including part of a training field in northern Okinawa,

— The consolidation and reduction of barracks through the construction of high-rise residential buildings, including those at Camp Zukeran, and

— A pledge to observe a recently concluded noise prevention accord calling for curbs on night and early morning warplane flights.

The two countries will also vow to take into full account Okinawa's heavy burden of hosting U.S. military facilities and maximize efforts to reduce the burden in the November report and thereafter, the sources said.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto is scheduled to hold talks with Clinton on April 17 and the two leaders are expected to issue a joint declaration hailing the committee's efforts to end the sacrifices made by the Okinawan people, they said.

Okinawa accounts for a fraction of Japan's land area but hosts 75 percent of all U.S. military facilities in Japan in terms of land area.

Reduction of the heavy U.S. military presence has become a hot political issue in the wake of the abduction and rape of an Okinawan schoolgirl last September, of which three U.S. servicemen were found guilty in March.

Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota has singled out the Futenma airfield, where U.S. marine helicopter units are based, as an issue of prime concern.

Hashimoto pledged, following his first meeting with Clinton in February, held in the U.S., to make progress on the issue.

Japan: Spokesman on Clinton Visit, Brown, DPRK, UN

OW0804101796 (Internet) Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs WWW in English 8 Apr 96

[News conference by Japanese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ken Shimanouchi with unidentified reporters on 5 April; place not given; from the "What's New!" link]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Topics of Discussion]

I. Announcements by Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ken Shimanouchi

A. Condolences by Japan on the passing of Secretary of

Commerce Ronald Brown of the United States of America

B. Topics discussed by Minister for Foreign Affairs

Yukihiko Ikeda and United Nations Secretary-General Butros

Butros-Ghali

II. Matters of Japanese policy regarding contact with North Korea

III. Statements by North Korea on the Armistice Agreement and the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)

IV. Matters involving Japanese national, Yoshimi Tanaka, being held in the Kingdom of Thailand on hijacking charges

V. Counterfeit United States currency seized in Tokyo

VI. United Nations Secretariat bureaucracy reform

VII. Matter of accidental destruction of historic Japanese ruins

VIII. Areas of probable discussion at the upcoming meeting in Tokyo of Prime Minister Hashimoto and President Clinton of the United States of America

I. Announcements by Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ken Shimanouchi

A. Condolences by Japan on the passing of Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown of the United States of America

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ken Shimanouchi: Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I would like to say a few words about the unfortunate plane accident in Bosnia and Herzegovina yesterday, in which Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown of the United States of America and members of his delegation passed away. We are shocked and saddened by the passing of Commerce Secretary Brown. He was an able and skillful negotiator. But, more than that, he was a trustworthy partner and a great friend of Japan. We were looking forward to having him in Tokyo shortly. He will be sorely missed. We wish to express our deepest condolences to Mrs. Brown and to the bereaved families of the other members of Commerce Secretary Brown's delegation. For your information, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto has sent messages of condolence to President William Clinton of the United States of America and to Mrs. Brown. Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda also sent messages to Secretary of State Warren Christopher of the United States of America and to Mrs. Brown. And, top officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry have done the same.

B. Topics discussed by Minister for Foreign Affairs Yukihiko Ikeda and United Nations Secretary-General Butros Butros-Ghali

Spokesman Ken Shimanouchi: United Nations Secretary-General Butros Butros-Ghali is in Tokyo for an official visit this week. The meeting lasted for a little over an hour. They discussed a broad range of subjects related to United Nations activities. At the outset of the meeting, the Secretary-General expressed his appreciation for Japan's contributions to the United Nations. He referred to Japan's contributions to United Nations Peace Keeping Operations (PKO). He referred to Japanese contributions in the area of disarmament, and also in the humanitarian area. Foreign Minister Ikeda told the Secretary-General about Japan's priorities in the United Nations. He said that he recognized the importance of areas other than PKO. He said that Japan was supporting United Nations activities in a broad range of areas, including development and environmental protection. With regard to PKO, he referred to Japan's participation in the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). He also referred to the recent participation of Japanese electoral observers in the Palestinian elections. He said that in the area of disarmament, he agreed with the views of the Secretary-General about the importance of this area. He emphasized that we need to conclude a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) by this fall, and that Japan was making efforts to bring this about. He also mentioned the issue of land mines, and the United Nations arms register, among other things.

With regard to United Nations reform, Foreign Minister Ikeda said that reform in three areas (the restructuring of the United Nations Security Council, financial reform, and reform in economic and social areas) needed to be pursued in a balanced manner. With regard to the new proposal in the Working Group on the Restructuring of the United Nations Security Council, which has been drawing attention — I am referring to the new idea of adding to the United Nations Security Council Japan and Germany, plus some permanent regional seats to be rotated among members of their respective regions — Foreign Minister Ikeda said that it was a realistic solution which merited consideration. On this question of United Nations reform, the Secretary-General said he had hoped agreement could be achieved on the substance of reform during the current 50th Anniversary Session of the United Nations; that, unfortunately, this seemed to be difficult. He referred to the financial crisis in the United Nations, and said that this crisis had the effect of delaying discussions on the organizational reform of the United Nations. In response, Foreign Minister Ikeda said he understood why the Secretary-General could not be optimistic about Security Council reform, but he emphasized that if it is difficult, it is all the more important to make efforts, making use of the momentum of the 50th Anniversary Session. With regard to financial reform, he said that we should distinguish between the cash flow problem and the financial review aspect, including the review of the scale of assessments. They also discussed such issues as African development, the former Yugoslavia, and United Nations Security Resolution 986 on the partial lifting of oil export limits on the Republic of Iraq.

Those are the announcements that I wanted to make, and I will be delighted to respond to any questions that you might have.

II. Matters of Japanese policy on contact with North Korea

Q: A couple of questions on North Korea. First, can you tell us about the meetings in Beijing? What was the purpose, and where are they expected to lead?

A: It has been the consistent policy of this Government not to comment on the specifics on our contacts with the North Korean side.

Q: That's all? Do you acknowledge that you have had talks with North Korea?

A: I am saying that we cannot comment on the specifics of our contacts with North Korea.

Q: I think another comment that I read, attributed to the Prime Minister, was something about that fact that the time is right to look ahead with North Korea, and perhaps engage in discussions, or consider it. What about that idea? Is it the Japanese Government's view that it is, in fact, a proper time to consider normalization with North Korea?

A: As you know — perhaps this was before you came to Tokyo — a delegation consisting of members of the ruling party visited North Korea last year. They agreed at the party level that the normalization talks should be resumed. Since then, the Government has been having preliminary contact with the North Korean side, so as to be able to initiate normalization talks. This has been a process that has been going on for a long time. Our position regarding the question of normalization with North Korea is as follows. It is our position to take into account two aspects: One is to normalize the anomalous state of affairs that has existed between Japan and North Korea since the end of the war; and the other aspect is to contribute to the stability of the Korean Peninsula. Another important point is that we will be doing this while maintaining close contact with the Republic of Korea.

III. Statements by North Korea regarding the Armistice Agreement and the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)

Q: After the statement made by the North Korean deputy defense minister on 29 March, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto stated that the North Korean statement seems to be aiming at drawing the United States to the negotiating table on the Peace Treaty. Are there any changes after yesterday's statement issued by Pyongyang — after looking at the situation on behalf of the Foreign Ministry?

A: Basically, there has been no change in our views. On 29 March, the deputy minister of defense of North Korea announced, among other things, that North Korea's response to the situation would contain measures related to the fact that maintaining the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) was no longer possible. We see the announcement made yesterday as a sort of follow-up to the 29 March statement — a step to dismantle the Armistice Agreement. We consider that the series of measures taken pursuant to the Armistice Agreement are essential to preventing the destabilization of the Korean Peninsula, and hope that these arrangements will continue to be respected.

Q: Could you evaluate the present tension on the Korean Peninsula, and what the Japanese Government is doing about it?

A: Are you referring to the statement by the North Korean vice minister? Do you have that in mind?

Q: Yes, I have that in mind, and also that they have decided to abandon the DMZ.

A: We think that the situation needs to be watched very carefully. It is a well-known fact that North Korea continues to concentrate two-thirds of its land forces in the vicinity of the DMZ, and that they have been trying to maintain a high state of troop readiness. We think we need to watch the situation very carefully, maintaining close contact with our friends. However, we do not see at this moment any out-of-the-ordinary developments on the North Korean side, and I think we should look at the situation calmly.

Q: So, there is no real change in the state of readiness of the Self Defense Forces due to this kind of activity on the Korean Peninsula?

A: No.

Q: We have known that the Foreign Ministry's position on the North Korea-Japan talks on the normalization of the relationship is a no-comment situation, but it was recently reported in Japanese papers that Prime Minister Hashimoto recently mentioned that there was a meeting in Beijing. What is your position on that?

A: I think this is a case of his comments not being reported accurately. Let me explain what he said. He was not referring to any specific contacts between the Japanese Government and the North Korean side. He was talking very generally about the current state of affairs regarding our talks with North Korea. What he said was consistent with what we have been saying all along, which is that we are still in the stage of preliminary contacts with the North Korean side, aimed at the resumption of the normalization talks, and that normalization talks, as such, have not taken place yet.

Q: I just want to double-check two things. First, on the policy of the Government on contact with North Korea, that you acknowledge ongoing preliminary contacts, but there is no comment on any specifics. Secondly, can you characterize the Japanese Government's response to the rhetoric and activities along the DMZ? You did not seem to be overly concerned about it. Is that correct?

A: We believe that we need to watch the situation very closely. We need to examine the motives, the intentions of the North Korean side. We also need to follow the actions that they might take in the future. The widely held view is, in regard to the motives of the announcements on 29 March, that they are trying to put pressure on the United States with regard to the conclusion of an interim agreement. Other people say that the North Korean side may be trying to tighten their grip, in domestic terms. Others say that they might have in mind the upcoming elections in the Republic of Korea. In any case, we believe that we need to watch and follow the situation very closely.

IV. Matters involving Japanese national, Yoshimi Tanaka, being held in the Kingdom of Thailand on hijacking charges

Q: Could you update us on the status of the suspected former Japanese Red Army person currently being held in Thailand?

A: To my knowledge, consultations with the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand are still continuing — that no decision has been reached yet. We are seeking his custody.

Q: And, what was Thailand's reaction?

A: We are still discussing this with Thailand.

V. Counterfeit United States currency seized in Tokyo

Q: Very sophisticated fake dollars have been found in Tokyo, apparently in regard to transactions with North Korea. What is the Government's reaction to this?

A: That issue falls completely outside the purview of this Ministry. I would appreciate it very much if you would pose that question to the Police Agency.

Q: Are there any plans on behalf of the Government of Japan to ask the Government of North Korea what their involvement has been in this counterfeit incident?

A: I am not aware of any such plans.

VI. United Nations Secretariat bureaucracy reform

Q: Has there been any reference on the part the Secretary- General or Foreign Minister Ikeda on the necessity of re-engineering the Secretariat bureaucracy?

A: It is not in my readout. I do not believe it was discussed in any detail.

VII. Matter of accidental destruction of historic Japanese ruins

Q: Could you please comment on the incident reported by the Asahi Shimbun this morning about the United States military construction carried out on historic ruins?

A: I think you are talking about the historic ruins of Heshikiyabaru. We are still seeking factual information on this matter. Judging from the information that we have at hand, there seems to have been an unfortunate mis- communication between the United States forces and the local community. The United States has always shown understanding for the need to protect Japan's cultural heritage. They have shown sensitivity to this, so we hope to cooperate with the United States to avoid a recurrence of a similar situation in the future.

VIII. Areas of probable discussion at the upcoming meeting in Tokyo of Prime Minister Hashimoto and President Clinton of the United States of America

Q: Regarding the upcoming visit by President Clinton to Japan, would you say that the Okinawa base issue is the number-one item on the agenda between Prime Minister Hashimoto and President Clinton? And, can we expect any significant progress in that area?

A: The number-one item on the agenda of the talks scheduled at the time of the President's visit to Japan later this month is the reaffirmation of the importance of the bilateral ties between the two countries. The two leaders will be addressing a broad range of issues, such as the security relationship, trade and economic issues, the common agenda, and people-to-people contacts. They will be comparing notes on the international situation, as well. Both sides will be emphasizing the importance of the Japan-United States Security Arrangements in the post-cold war context. We hope to announce a joint document on the security ties during the President's visit. On the specific issue of Okinawa, I think you are aware that both sides are making efforts to address the situation in the Special Action Committee on Facilities and Areas in Okinawa (SACO). Yesterday, a meeting of the SACO took place. In this meeting, the two sides reaffirmed the progress made so far regarding the areas relating to the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA). To be more specific, they reaffirmed the recent agreement on noise abatement and attaching markings on United States military vehicles when they go outside the bases. They also confirmed that both sides would also be making efforts on other issues in this area which need to be addressed, and to achieve concrete results as soon as possible. On the question of realignment, consolidation, and downsizing of United States bases in Okinawa, the two sides reviewed, in yesterday's meeting, the state of progress made by the working subgroup of the SACO, and provided the subgroup with guidelines for future work. They also agreed that, at the time of the visit to Japan by Secretary of Defense William Perry of the United States of America, which will take place shortly before the President's visit, a meeting of the SACO and the 2+2 Security Consultative Committee will be held. They agreed that in these meetings they would compile an interim report on the SACO's efforts. We will be trying to make as much progress as possible on the these issues by the time of the President comes to Japan.

Q: You said that the 2+2 will be held before President Clinton visits. That means Secretary of State Warren Christopher is visiting Japan simultaneously with Defense Secretary Perry?

A: It seems that Secretary of State Christopher might not be able to make it to the 2+2. In that case, the Department of State of the United States of America will be represented by a high official of that Department.

Q: Then it is not really a 2+2. Maybe a two-plus-one-and-a- half?

A: No, we called it a 2+2.

Q: If you can tell me specifically what kinds of options are going to be discussed by Prime Minister Hashimoto and President Clinton regarding the downsizing of United States forces. What are the two or three top proposals on the table in terms of closing down bases, moving troops to different locations, and so forth.

A: One has to distinguish between the realignment, consolidation and downsizing of bases and troop reductions. We have never asked for troop reductions. The United States has an obligation under the Security Treaty to defend Japan in the case of an armed attack against Japan. So, it is up to the United States to decide what level of troops it needs to comply with this treaty obligation. We understand that the current figure — 47,000 — was arrived at after a thorough assessment of the security environment in this part of the world, and it is Japan's policy to respect the considered judgment of the United States on this matter. With regard to the question of the consolidation, realignment and downsizing of bases, this will be a one-year process, a process which started in November of last year. We have been looking at problems relating to each base in Okinawa. In cooperation with the United States, we have been trying to identify and sort-out the problems. We are now starting to look at what options may be available and what we may be able to do. But, this has just started. What I can say now is that we intend to achieve tangible results by November. Since the President's visit this month will be a very important part of this process, we will be trying to make as much progress as possible by then. But, how much progress we will be able to make before the President's visit will depend on what we will be able to achieve between now and then. Thank you very much.

Japan: Outline of Japan-U.S. Security Statement Decided

OW0804075196 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 7 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] An outline of the joint statement on security to be issued after the Japan-U.S. summit meeting on 17 April has been decided as of 6 April. As major topics, the statement will reconfirm that the Japan-U.S. security alliance remains important after the end of the cold war and will clearly state that Japan and the United States aim at effectively strengthening bilateral security arrangements and promoting study on defense cooperation between the two countries in dealing with emergencies. It will also assert that the U.S. will maintain "approximately 100,000 troops in East Asia" toward the 21st century. On issues concerning U.S. forces stationed on Okinawa, the security statement will commend an interim report on realignment and reduction of U.S. military bases to be announced by the Special Action Committee on Facilities and Sites in Okinawa (SACO) on 15 April. The statement will confirm that the two governments will further "strive to realign, streamline, and reduce" U.S. military facilities in Okinawa by the time the committee works out a final report in November.

Referring to the international situation that substantiates the need for maintaining Japan-U.S. security arrangements, the joint statement will enumerate a "nuclear superpower," the situation on the "Korean peninsula," and "unsettled territorial issues" as destabilizing factors in the Asia-Pacific region. The Japanese and U.S. Governments discussed how their stance on China's recent intimidatory actions in the Taiwan Strait should be incorporated in the security statement. However, they have decided not to name China, to avoid any misunderstanding that China is regarded as a hypothetical enemy. This is because they have concluded that "both Japan and the United States should strengthen their involvement in China, not to encircle or isolate the country but to bring it into the international community" (as stated by a senior Foreign Ministry official).

Taking these factors into consideration, the statement will maintain that the Japan-U.S. security alliance "contributes to peace and stability not only in Japan and the Far East but also in the Asia-Pacific region" and that the U.S. military presence "remains important" because some instability remains in the region. Noting that the United States maintains "100,000" forward-deployed troops in "East Asia," the statement is expected to assert that troop strength will be coordinated depending on changes in future security conditions, progress in technology, and reorganization of the U.S. forces. The security statement will not specify the figure of 47,000 U.S. troops in Japan, out of consideration for the Okinawa prefectural government, which claims that specifying the troop level would lead to the permanent presence of U.S. bases on Okinawa.

As for how Japan-U.S. security arrangements ought to prepare for the 21st century, the statement will note the need to promote defense cooperation between the two countries. To that end, it will indicate an intention to review the existing "guideline for Japan-U.S. defense cooperation" and to promote discussions on Japan-U.S. cooperation, including supporting the U.S. forces or rescuing Japanese and Americans abroad in emergencies, including disasters.

Japan: Security Paper To Stress Cooperation With U.S. in Emergency

OW0804061696 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 8 Apr 96 Morning Edition

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a speech at a hotel in Hiroshima on 7 April, Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda stressed the significance of the Japan-U.S. security treaty in the post-Cold War era. He said: "Article 6 of the treaty, which requires the United States to contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability in the Far East and calls on Japan to assist the United States by providing military facilities, has become more important than Article 5, which stipulates Japan-U.S. joint action against attempts to invade Japan."

His remark indicates that "security documents," which Japan and the United States plan to exchange during U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to Tokyo to give a "redefinition" to the bilateral security arrangements, will stress the importance of Japan-U.S. cooperation "in emergencies in the Far East."

Japan: DFAA Chief Comments on Landowner's Entry to Property

OW0604005996 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 4 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Tokyo — In connection with the issue surrounding the Sobe communications facility in Okinawa, wherein a landowner has called on the government to allow him to enter his plot, which is in a state of "illegal occupation," Director General Masuo Morodomi of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency [DFAA] told the RYUKYU SHIMPO on 3 April that "At present, we think there is still a fear of an unexpected situation near the facility," thus stressing the government's stand of not allowing the landowner to get into the facility remains unchanged. But the Director General added, "When the situation returns to calm, we will consider the possibility of allowing the landowner to set foot on his land while judging the situation. Therefore, it does not necessarily mean that the government will never accept his request." In this way, Morodomi disclosed that when the situation becomes tranquil, the government may allow the landowner to enter his plot with certain limitations.

Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau [DFAB] officials visited landowner Shoichi Chibana on 3 April and told him, "We would like to know the date and the number of people who plan to enter the land." Referring to this, Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama told a news conference later in the day that "Those remarks were made in response to Mr. Chibana's questions. Thus, it does not necessarily mean that the government positively asked him to enter his land." In this way, Kajiyama indicated that the government maintains its policy of rejecting his entry into the site.

However, since there is no justifiable ground to ban the entry under the current situation wherein the land is "illegally occupied," and in view of the fact that the government allowed a landowner to enter his plot in the past, "It will be difficult to thoroughly reject the entry" (as stated by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto). In this sense, it is more likely that the government will finally allow the landowner to enter the site.

Morodomi told the RYUKYU SHIMPO that "We will consult with the U.S. side as well as with the landowner if the situation becomes calm. But there is equipment such as cables going under the plot in question. So his demand should be met under the condition that the functions of the facility will not be hindered." In this way, Morodomi indicated his view that, as conditions, the number of people entering the site and their activities in the plot should be limited.

With regard to a request lodged by Chibana at the Naha District Court demanding access to and return of the plot, the first hearing will be held on 5 April. Even if the court makes a decision to allow the landowner to enter the plot, the government will not immediately give him permission to enter the land on the strength of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements and the Status of Forces Agreement, when the government sees that there still exists a fear of an unexpected situation. In this sense, attention is increasingly focused on the court's decision.

Japan: Opposition Leader Ozawa on U.S. Bases, Security Ties

OW0804093496

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tokyo Asahi Television Network in Japanese at 0100 GMT on 7 April, during its "Sunday Project" program, carries a 30-minute live interview with Ichiro Ozawa, head of the opposition Shinshinto [New Frontier Party], by political commentator Soichiro Tahara.

Tahara first seeks Ozawa's opinion on the government's illegal occupation of land for the U.S. Sobe communication facility in Yomitan-son, Okinawa, noting that the fundamental human rights and property rights have been infringed upon by the Japan-U.S. security treaty. Disagreeing with Tahara's claim that the security pact is to blame for infringement of fundamental human rights, Ozawa criticizes the government for failure to take appropriate measures to prevent illegal occupation of the land. He says: "If the government thinks maintaining the Japan-U.S. security system is necessary and considers it Japan's basic national policy, it should have held talks with the landowner before the lease contract expired so that illegal occupation of the land would have been avoided." He adds: "The present administration is to blame for the illegal occupation of the land." Asked how he would have dealt with the Sobe plot issue if he had been prime minister, Ozawa states: "I believe the Japan-U.S. alliance is a must for Japan to continue to exist. Thus, Japan should offer military bases to the U.S. forces. Although the current situation, in which Okinawa is burdened with many U.S. bases, should be corrected, this is another problem. The government should hold a meeting with landowners to discuss extending land lease contracts for U.S. forces. If the government fails to gain their consent to the lease extensions, it will have no alternative but to take legal steps." Ozawa notes that the government's failure to persuade the Sobe plot owner to continue to lease his land and its delay in taking legal steps caused the illegal occupation.

Tahara next seeks Ozawa's comment on a call for reviewing the Japan-U.S. security treaty, saying there is a growing voice urging review of the pact. Tahara says he himself wants the security treaty to be reviewed now that the cold war structure has collapsed and because the current situation has changed since the security pact was signed. Noting that one should see not only the military aspect of the security pact but also its economic and other aspects, Ozawa says: "I think the security pact should be considered the bond of the alliance and friendly relations between Japan and the United States." Claiming that Asian neighbors regard Japan as a potential threat and harbor distrust of Japan, Ozawa stresses it is imperative for Japan to maintain the alliance with the United Stats and to participate in UN-led activities to dispel that distrust.

Ozawa describes as dangerous the argument in the United States that the Japan-U.S. security pact should be canceled because it is a one-sided contract that requires only Americans to shed blood in emergencies. He also expresses concern over the opinion among some Japanese that Japan can manage without U.S. help. He says: "The view shows their arrogance, overconfidence, and narrow-minded nationalism. I think such a view in Japan is most dangerous."

Japan: Local Groups To Help Form Party, Support Okinawa Governor

OW0704112896 Tokyo KYODO in English
1122 GMT 7 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chiba, Japan, April 7 KYODO — An alliance of small political and civic groups scattered around Japan agreed Sunday [7 April] to promote the formation of a new national political party aimed at reforming what it called the nation's bureaucracy-led politics oriented to interest groups.

The accord was reached at an inaugural meeting of the local network of Japan (J Net) held in Chiba, east of Tokyo, with the attendance of 870 representatives from 47 groups in 31 of Japan's 47 prefectures, organizers said.

J Net will be parallel to the proposed national party rather than being a subordinate group, network leaders said.

The gathering selected five caretakers, including former Hokkaido Governor Takahiro Yokomichi and House of Representatives member Banri Kaieda.

The new group pledged to throw its support behind Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota in his court battle with the central government over legal procedures necessary to force renewal of land leases to the U.S. military.

Ota has refused to sign documents required for the lease renewal, and the leases are opposed by some landowners in the southwestern island prefecture.

J Net cited among its policy priorities a sweeping review of the national public works budget, currently appropriated on the basis of past spending records, promotion of legislation giving the public access to administrative information, and reform of the Diet.

Japan: U.S. Forces Destroy Ruins in Constructing Weather Radar

OW0704123596 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 5 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] It was disclosed on 4 April that U.S. forces had destroyed a historical site, including 3,000-year-old ruins of dugouts in White Beach, Katsuren town, Okinawa, to built weather radar for the Air Force. Dugout ruins are rarely found in mainland Okinawa. With the Defense Facilities Administration Agency [DFAA] unaware of this, the construction project was started in January of 1995 and completed last month. The Cultural Properties Protection Act basically requires research be done prior to starting construction projects. However, those conducted solely by U.S. forces are not subject to the act, because jurisdiction of the land lots on bases belongs to U.S. forces under the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement [SOFA]. The archaeological association on Okinawa, where approximately 11 percent of the land is occupied by U.S. military bases, has taken a serious view of the situation, saying, "It is substantial extraterritoriality." It has decided to strictly protest to U.S. forces in the near future.

The Heshikiyabaru ruins, which were destroyed, are located on a 65-meter-high hill in Katsuren town, overlooking the White Beach Naval Port in Nakagusuku Bay.

According to the Okinawa Prefectural Board of Education, it is the remains of houses built in the late Okinawa Kaizuka age (about 3,000 years ago) and stretches approximately 150 meters east to west and 70 meters north to south.

In 1991, an area four by four by 0.4 meters was excavated for trial. Researchers unearthed 295 peaces of earthenware, similar to those found in the national reserve Nakabaru ruins on Ikei Island, as well as ruins of two dugouts. It was named the Heshikiyabaru Ruins.

The board of education believes that the remains of columns for two houses are part of a village with a shell heap, which is the same size or larger than that of the Nakabaru ruins. The board restored the excavated area to its original state after deciding to preserve the relics out of its recognition that the ruin is important enough to be designated a national reserve. The prefectural government believed that "there would be no problem if it leaves the area as it is" because U.S. forces also had left it as it is for long time.

According to the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau [DFAB], the construction project began in early January. As it was a project conducted by U.S. forces without using Japan's so-called "consideration budget [financial aid]," the DFAB was not informed that the project had begun. On 25 January, a local resident reported to the Katsuren Town Board of Education that "U.S. forces are carrying out construction." Although officials from town and prefectural governments went to the site the next day, the foundation of the building was already completed, and a steel tower was built right above the area where the trial excavation had been conducted. The ruin was too badly destroyed to be restored.

The town authorities called U.S. Navy and Air Force officers in charge of the construction project to the town government building on 30 January and demanded: "The construction project should not be expanded further to keep the damage minimum." In response, the U.S. side said: "Although we paid attention to relics on the ground, we did not know there is a precious underground ruin. We will conduct construction projects with full attention in future."

The DFAA said that although a SOFA article requires U.S. forces to "respect Japanese laws," it does not have binding power. In other words, Japanese domestic laws, such as the Cultural Properties Protection Act, are not applied to U.S. forces.

If the Japanese Government builds U.S. military's facilities under the "consideration budget," Japanese domestic laws apply to those projects. In the case of the construction project for housing facilities in Ikeko (Zushi City in Kanagawa Prefecture), the Kanagawa Prefectural Board of Education conducted excavation research at the state's request.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan-U.S. Security Treaty Division said: "It was an unfortunate incident. However, from the viewpoint of international laws, host nations' domestic laws are not directly applied to foreign forces stationed overseas."

Japan: Article Urges Tokyo To Support U.S. Security Strategy

*962B0032A Tokyo VOICE in Japanese Dec 96
pp 178-187*

[Article by former Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff Goro Takeda: "Japan Should Serve as Logistical Support Base for U.S. Military Forces"]

[FBIS Translated Text]**Establishment of Security System That Can Support U.S. Forces Far East Strategy Is Indeed Urgent**

"Internal and External Workings" of Crisis Management

Since the "Osaka-Kobe Earthquake" parliament and the mass media have debated crisis management almost daily and even the government is attempting to reinforce such capabilities with strong resolve, but measures taken so far have been limited to those designed for natural disaster relief.

The police beefed up its security forces for three days on a nationwide basis and implemented strict alert forces in major metropolitan areas, based on the prediction made by the Aum Shinrikyo that "15 April will witness the arrival of a crisis in the Kanto district." Phenomena such as the Aum's fanatical actions, especially the strong suspicion that they had manufactured weapons and sarin gas, the subway sarin gassing, and shooting of the National Police Agency director general had caused increased tension and public opinion treated as unavoidable what appeared to be excessive strict alert measures.

In implementing countermeasures, the government first embarked on legislative measures, but such an approach was appropriate for a democratic law-abiding nation.

The government and public, which exercise so much enthusiasm concerning measures to cope with disasters and terror as a means to protect public safety, display extremely low interest in the foremost threat against the country and people in the form of external military intimidation and aggression.

The Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ) has made a 180-degree shift in its policy so that it now embraces the policies calling for the "constitutionality of the self-defense forces (SDF)" and "adherence to Japan-U.S. security system," but it still rejects the establishment of legislation essential for the effective functioning of such systems while such legislation is shunned by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Sakigake, which are members of the ruling coalition. Such a posture is being taken, despite the fact that the military situation surrounding our country is precarious and North Korea remains unpredictable.

A remote cause of the foregoing situation lies in excessive trust in the protection provided under the belief that the United States would defend Japan and the overly optimistic belief in the international applicability of so-called one-nation pacifism under the pacifist Constitution even in the event of a Far Eastern emergency situation having a major impact on the safety of our nation.

Implementation of measures—concerning the extension of services to the U.S. military in the event of a Far Eastern emergency, which our nation has neglected in terms of security, for the sake of redefining and injecting new life into the Japan-U.S. security system following the Cold War period—is an urgent matter.

"Signs of Major Upheaval" in Northeast Asia

Although we speak of an end to the Cold War, the military situation around our country has worsened in terms of instability and ambiguity and a prominent international political scholar at the beginning of the year asserted and warned of "signs of a major regional upheaval in northeast Asia."

The Korean peninsula is still plagued by a north and south confrontation while the demilitarized zone serves as a dividing belt for a troop confrontation totaling 1.5 million, and North Korea since last year has increased pressure on South Korea by deploying 240-millimeter multiple-head rocket launchers and 170-millimeter artillery pieces, placing the South Korean capital of Seoul within firing range of the North Korean forces.

In October of last year, the United States and North Korea, which had been facing difficulties on negotiations, finally agreed to the dismantling of the North Korean graphite nuclear reactor and the Korean Energy Development Organization (KEDO) was finally launched on 9 March. However, the subsequent seven months saw no noticeable concrete progress. Further, costs have been estimated at $4 billion, but North Korea has asked for an increase and nothing has been determined in terms of sharing that increase.

Even though a compromise has been luckily attained with respect to the foregoing issue, the future can be expected to contain further twists and turns and the interim will probably witness repeated intensification and easing of the situation. Moreover, it will not be until the year 2003 that these issues are resolved, progress is made on the conversion to a light-water reactor according to plan and the nuclear suspicion is resolved upon completion of inspections.

A while back, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) announced that North Korea had already obtained enough plutonium to produce at least one nuclear bomb and that there was significant suspicion that it would obtain additional supplies. The assumption is that North Korea has succeeded in developing nuclear projection capabilities in the form of a 1,000-kilometer-plus range medium range "Nodon-class" missile and that current progress exposes Japan to a nuclear threat albeit by a single-war-head missile.

China is accomplishing sharp economic growth at a rate which could be called excessive, and accompanied by boosts in defense spending averaging over 10 percent annually in the past seven years and over 20 percent in the past two years.

To modernize the military, especially in terms of strengthening assault capabilities in air and naval forces, China has purchased Russian SU-27 long-range fighter bombers and Kilo-class submarines, and last year it made a decision to build aircraft carriers.

Increasing national strength has stimulated traditional Chinese ideologies, reflecting a glimpse of a preference for hegemony. Specifically, China established the Maritime Territorial Law in 1992, designated the Xisha and Spratly Islands and our nation's Senkaku Islands as Chinese territories, and declared as a military mission the preservation of maritime interests.

The United States withdrew from the Philippines and the Soviet Union withdrew from Vietnam. As if to take advantage of the power vacuum left by such withdrawals, China has militarized the Xisha Islands by constructing a 2,500-meter landing strip on Yongxing Island and recently disregarded protests from the surrounding six nations in occupying the Mischief Atolls of the Spratly Islands. In March, the Philippines destroyed the unmanned facilities in those islands and captured four fishing vessels, leaving the status of the islands in dispute.

Since January 1994, despite coordination being undertaken among nations to conclude a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty, or perhaps because of such moves, China conducted nuclear tests in June and October 1994 and it conducted its 42d test in May 1995 after the member nations agreed to the permanent extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and immediately after Prime Minister Murayama had requested suspension of tests during his visit to China.

In March 1996, the implementation of presidential elections based on a popular vote could occasion heightened aspirations for independence, creating fears of intensified tensions in the Taiwan Straits. In September 1994, China executed a major naval exercise called "Eastern Sea Number 1" involving 50 naval ships including nuclear submarines, and 200 aircraft and in July 1995 launched missiles into the Taiwan Straits.

Further, both North Korea and China are expected to face economic and political turmoil and their potential impact is of concern.

Such trends in both countries have a serious inimical impact on the security of our nation and fundamentally conflicts with the U.S. Asian strategy.

East Asia-Pacific Region Strategy Report

On 27 February 1995, the United States issued the East Asia-Pacific Region Strategy Report (hereinafter referred to as Asian Strategy) and on 7 March it issued the Defense Report.

If we were to summarize sections applicable to our country, they would be as follows:

1. East Asian nations are growing economically, but continue to remain unstable in a political sense. Vigilance is especially critical in terms of the Korean peninsula situation and the modernization of Chinese military capabilities.

2. Existence of U.S. military strength is essential for the stability of that region as well as the world. Therefore, critical are measures such as forward-deployed forces at a level of 100,000, reinforcement of alliances, prevention of nuclear proliferation, and Theater Missile Defense (TMD).

3. The United States will maintain military capabilities based on "BUR [expansion unknown] Strategy" (cope with and achieve victory in major regional disputes occurring simultaneously in two different geographical locations). The strategy is highly dependent on the cooperation of regional allies.

4. The Japan-U.S. security system is critical to regional peace and stability and will serve to correct erstwhile economic bias in Japan-U.S. relations.

5. Japan is specifically expected to: 1) Implement TMD, 2) Increase cost sharing for stationing U.S. troops in Japan, 3) Maintain the capability to defend the Japanese mainland and the 1,000-mile sea lane, 4) Participate in peacekeeping operations (PKO), and 5) Extend political and economic aid in terms of the global economy and resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue.

Our nation has given high marks to this "Asian Strategy" and reevaluated the significance of and has seen a reinforcement in views which favor the revitalization of the Japan-U.S. security system in the post-Cold War period.

At the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting at the beginning of last year, President Clinton asserted, "The United States has no intention of continuing to shoulder the costs of a military presence in Asia, if it cannot share in the benefits of economic growth emanating from Asian stability," and candidly revealed that priority was being given to economic interests of the United States. The fact that the United States has corrected this posture of economic bias, emphasized security, suspended further demilitarization and troop strength reductions in the Far East, and declared that the "Japan-U.S. security system is the basis for all bilateral relationships" is indeed welcomed.

However, the United States no longer has the self-confidence nor the capability to act singlehandedly as the global policeman. We see emerging introversion as "New Isolationism" within the Republican Party and "arguments for cancellation of the Japan-U.S. security system" among intellectuals. The United States is determined to contribute to Asian stability, but under the premise that cooperation from allies and self-efforts of host nations are forthcoming while Japan is logically expected to make a major contribution.

At the end of March, a symposium was held in San Francisco concerning the restructuring of the Japan-U.S. security system. All parties present voted in favor of the main features of the previously mentioned "Asian Strategy," but during the meeting, pro-Japan former Assistant Secretary of Defense Armitage stated, "Japan and the United States have never been friends nor foes" and expressed the dim view, "Japan-U.S. relations will face a crisis without any revitalization of cooperation relative to the Japan-U.S. security system," thus expressing his strong fear of the actions taken by the Murayama cabinet in connection with the tense situation in the Korean peninsula.

It was only logical for Armitage to express his concern because he is thoroughly familiar with the fragile state of our nation's security system, recent weakening of the coalition government, and the prime minister's political background.

Have preparations been completed for legislation concerning emergencies?

In the summer of 1994 when the U.S.-North Korean talks stagnated, the U.S. Defense Department studied the advisability of attacking North Korean nuclear facilities, completed work on detailed large-scale military operational plans, and was on the verge of recommending the deployment of 10,000 additional troops and air and naval units (extracted from 14 January Congressional testimony by Defense Secretary Perry).

Before the preceding testimony, former Chief Cabinet Secretary Kumagai, speaking on Television ASAHI, referred to actions to be taken in the event of a military clash on the Korean peninsula, by saying, "If an agreement is reached, we can quickly organize a crisis management system.... Administrative preparations required ahead of government passage of crisis management legislation is just about completed."

According to certain mass media reports, the draft legislation covers restrictions on foreign trade, logistical support of U.S. Navy maritime interceptions, suspension of remittances to North Korea, rescue of Japanese citizens, and maintenance of security. However, draft legislation of this extent would preclude the assurance of safety for our nation and adequate logistical support for U.S. military movements in any Korean peninsula emergency or in connection with any tense situations which would precede an actual emergency.

The cardinal rule concerning crisis management dictates the establishment of capabilities to deal with the worst possible predictable scenario. One wonders, will the emergency legislation, which the chief cabinet secretary purports has been completed in draft form, satisfy the requirements of an emergency? Even if the answer were in the affirmative, it will take time to seek parliamentary approval and there is the risk of not being able to obtain timely approval.

Subsequently in November, the government barely managed to revise only the Self-Defense Forces Law to sanction the use of SDF air carriers in the evacuation of Japanese citizens residing in foreign countries during emergencies. However, the law excludes the use of naval ships for the same purpose.

On 23 April 1995, Defense Secretary Perry appeared on NBC television again and said, if North Korea should reinstall fuel cells in their nuclear reactors, there is the possibility that the United States would seek United Nations sanctions and deploy additional troops to South Korea.

In the future, if North Korea should violate the framework of the agreement, the United States will probably seek a United Nations resolution and if the measure is vetoed, the United States will resort to multilateral consultations with Japan and South Korea to apply pressure over North Korea in the form of economic sanctions, maritime interceptions, and blockades. North Korea has bombasted economic sanctions as tantamount to a declaration of war. If North Korea should invade the south, the United States will probably engage in immediate military intervention under the provisions of the U.S.-South Korea Treaty.

Tensions could rise in the Korean peninsula even tomorrow. I do not believe that a basic plan has been devised for use in such instances that would cover the provision of facilities and areas or the extension of support and cooperation in connection with combat operations from Japan-based installations or movements by the 7th Fleet.

Okinawa is still crucial

The Japan-U.S. Security Treaty agrees to implementation of economic aid in Section 2 and development of defense capabilities through self-help and mutual assistance in Section 3. Both programs are indispensable components of the Japan-U.S. security system.

The United States announced it would correct economic bias, and although the automotive issue was settled politically, various forms of economic friction still smolder and a worsening of Japanese-U.S. relations is still of concern. We cannot meet the expectations of the United States in the area of military affairs, if we reduce capabilities in connection with mainland defense and sea-lane preservation capabilities, reject requests for increases in funding to support U.S. Forces in Japan, and merely publicize and promote cuts in defense spending. The United States seeks maintenance and increased funding in support of its "Asian Strategy."

During the Cold-War period, the United States treated Japanese military strategic value primarily in terms of interception or counteroffensives against Soviet intrusion into the Pacific and the Okhotsk Sea as well as a presence to ensure East Asian stability, and especially as a logistics base for U.S. military operations in support of Middle East conflicts and preservation of sea lanes extending from that area. Now that it has won the Cold War, it feels "It no longer faces a direct threat from Soviet hegemony," and has shifted priorities to the latter area and is currently in the process of expanding its perspective to a global scope.

Even in this sense, Okinawa bases are still critical to the United States. The recent rape of a young girl by U.S. military personnel has evolved into a movement centered in Okinawa calling for the revision of the Status of Forces Agreement and threatening to expand into a movement for the removal of military bases. The Japan-U.S. security system is indispensable to the safety and prosperity of our nation even in the post-Cold War period. Already, the President has apologized for the wrongs committed and the United States has signaled its intent to conform with Japanese wishes concerning the Status of Forces Agreement by modifying pertinent administrative procedures.

A calm and collected response is desired lest we commit the foolish mistake of "failing to see the forest for the trees."

Section 5 of the security treaty stipulates joint defense in the event Japan is invaded. However, joint operational plans to be used in such instances are limited to research papers at the uniformed level, no intergovernmental agreement exists, and the prospects for completion of the plans are dim.

Section 6 of the treaty promises that Japan will offer facilities and areas for use as U.S. bases for the purpose of maintaining peace and safety in Japan and the Far East. Our nation should visualize a variety of situations posed in connection with the defense of Japan and Far Eastern emergencies (including situations of tension) and complete coordination necessary to cooperate with and support the U.S. Military Forces.

According to the U.S. "BUR Strategy," an emergency on the Korean Peninsula calls for the deployment of over 500,000 troops and support from Japan would be indispensable. Such a situation would correspond with conditions preceding those defined in Section 5 and as long as defense deployment is not ordered, the legal status would be exactly the same as peacetime and would preclude extension of support to the U.S. military forces. Moreover, issuance of such an order would probably cause political turmoil and even if the order were issued, the attendant legislation has not been completed. You might say that Armitage's concerns are rooted in this situation.

"Asian Strategy" is focused primarily on peacetime systems and is written carefully in a friendly manner so as to avoid any criticism of internal intervention in connection with U.S. allies and friendly nations, and makes no reference to Japanese concerns over extending support to the U.S. Forces when they are deployed in response to Far Eastern emergencies.

The government should be coordinating and making preparations during peacetime to enable it to respond with a support system in the event of unfortunate tensions on the Korean peninsula and a request is made by the United States during preliminary discussions, but regrettably the government is unconcerned.

If Japanese-U.S. relations deteriorate because of economic reasons, there is a need to provide some degree of support in the area of security; however, if even that is not possible because of fiscal reasons, it would be very important as one way of energizing Japan-U.S. security to establish support systems in the way of U.S. strategic logistics bases. Basically, if Japan were to be invaded, such an arrangement is indispensable under the provision of Section 5, and such arrangement should be completed beforehand.

Peacetime and Wartime Support

At the end of the Cold War, our nation considered forthcoming cooperation and aid from the U.S. Forces as being indispensable for the defense of Japan and had stressed the essentially of Prepositioned Overseas Material Configured in Unit Sets (POMCUS), and Wartime Host Nation Support (WHNS) under the common understanding, they were necessary to provide for the efficient arrival of aid and subsequent equipage of the aiding forces.

The Japan-U.S. Defense Coordination Guideline, agreed upon in 1978, provides, "Preliminary mutual research will be performed on services to be offered U.S. Forces by Japan in the event of Far East emergencies outside Japan which could have a serious impact on the safety of Japan. The research will cover the status of joint use of SDF facilities by U.S. Forces as well as other services." Later in 1982 the Japan-U.S. Security Consultation Committee agreed to commence research, but no progress has been made.

There is no documentation existing concerning services; however, the assumption is that it will include not only the joint usage of SDF facilities but a broad range of logistics support to the U.S. Forces including expansion of existing facilities and areas, and functions at airports and harbors, such as materiel receipt, transportation, facilities, fuel, provisions, procurement of equipment components, logistics, maintenance, services, and medical support.

In those days, even the term Host Nation Support (HNS) did not exist. They probably referred to services as being support extended to the U.S. Forces in connection with Far East emergencies that had nothing to do with the defense of Japan, and it was a term which was prone to be associated with administrative support of a passive nature, excluding any sense of sharing in responsibilities or roles while performing in a dedicated, active manner.

Support of the U.S. Forces by our nation must be perceived in terms of the differences between peacetime and wartime support.

The "Report on Contributions Made by Allies Relative to Joint Defense," submitted to Congress by the U.S. Defense Department in 1985 gives a high appraisal for peacetime support extended by Japan by stating, "A major contribution is being made to enhance the morale of the U.S. Forces in Japan not only in support of the United States, but in support of the defense of our allies" (Similar wording found in "Asian Strategy").

On the other hand, the report clearly states, "Emergency support is being researched according to the "guideline," but even if a conclusion were reached, any agreement would be officially enforceable only if an Emergency Law were enacted" and passes responsibility for action right into Japanese hands.

Subsequently, joint Japan-U.S. training exercises were held frequently and the United States seemed to have concluded that Emergency Law legislation by Japan could not be expected because in 1988, Japan-U.S. administrative talks resulted in the U.S. proposal for an Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) which was agreed to by Japan. Subsequently, research was conducted by uniformed personnel and eight years later the team completed a draft which is expected to be approved in the next fiscal year.

Currently, Japan-U.S. joint training exercises involve Japanese support in terms of high seas refueling of

U.S. Naval ships and aircraft, and refueling of downed aircraft, but ACSA will be used to expand joint training exercise support to materiel, such as provisions, fuel, and medical supplies and services such as transportation, lodging, and communications. Further, ammunition is excluded and there is talk about extending ACSA to PKO.

ACSA is designed so that it cannot be used to provide support to the U.S. Forces in connection with emergencies associated with Japan nor in connection with emergencies or tense situations in the Korean peninsula, and it is far removed from the services depicted in the "guideline" by the U.S. military—in fact, ACSA may be similar to what was expected but is a complete failure in terms of substance. As previously stated, the project was passed to Japanese hands for appropriate action, but Japan has failed in its role.

In August 1994, the "Defense Issues Conference" submitted to the prime minister a paper titled, "Japan's Security and the Status of Defense Capabilities," which recommends the early signing of an ACSA to promote cooperative relationships concerning Japan-U.S. security, but the scope is defined as "very routine level" and clearly separates ACSA from emergencies or tense situations.

The United States has already signed agreements of this nature with South Korea, North Atlantic Treaty Organizations, and Australia and has made them a part of its defense programs. During the Gulf war, when the U.S. 7th Army Corps, stationed in Germany, deployed to Saudi Arabia, Germany applied the "U.S.-German Agreement Concerning WHNS" and supported the movement operations by offering 750 freight cars, 1,300 vehicles, and 115 ships.

A factor which could impede support to U.S. Forces operating in our nation include the constitutional interpretation that exercise of collective defense is prohibited as rendered by Japanese government administrations over the years as they kowtowed to the public's selfish fear over being drawn into a war and proclivity for one-nation pacifism.

Reconsider government's interpretation of constitution

—Collective Self-Defense

The government's interpretation concerning the right to collective self-defense is as follows: "Under international law and under provisions concerning collective defense, a nation has the right to impede an armed attack on a nation with which it maintains close relationships even if the nation in question itself has not been directly attacked. Under international law, it is only appropriate that our nation possesses such collective defense authority as long as it is a sovereign nation, but self-defense authority permitted under the provisions of Article 9 of the Constitution limits the exercise of self-defense authority to those minimal actions required to defend our nation, constitutionally prohibiting collective self defense."

Further, at a later time, the government testified during parliamentary interpolations on collective self-defense in terms of its close connection with judgments concerning exercise of military force by stating ambiguously, "There is a need to make a collective assessment of how close we are in terms of the geographical point at which combat actions are taking place or are about to take place, and our action area, geographical relationships, specific actions being taken on our side, and relationships with parties already actually engaged in combat actions," adding, "As an example, we are not constitutionally allowed to engage in actions such as the supply of weapons and ammunition to combat zones where hostilities are in progress, transport such materials, or to engage in medical activities as members of medical units operating in combat zones. On the other hand, transportation of medical supplies and provisions to locations separated from areas where combat actions are taking place is permitted."

The foregoing interpretation led to a situation in which consideration was given to dispatching SDF personnel to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights in the Middle East, a determination was made that the transportation operations would be too closely tied into the peacekeeping force operations and hesitation by the Japanese Government relative to dispatch of SDF personnel. If tensions should arise in the Korean peninsula and U.S. Forces were to intervene, cooperation by the SDF would probably pose a problem.

Because Japan was an occupied nation during the Korean War, U.S. Forces (United Nations Forces) deployed from bases in this country without restrictions and provision was made for all-out logistical support as well as minesweeping of combat zones.

Even as an independent nation, if an emergency should arise in the Korean peninsula and the government ordered a defense deployment because of fear that there would be an invasion of the Japanese mainland, the absence of an Emergency Law under our current legal system would mean that the SDF will not be able to extend support to the U.S. Forces and will merely function as idle bystanders.

Under such conditions, U.S. public opinion and congressional criticism of Japan will be incomparably greater than at the time of the Gulf war and result in the inevitable collapse of the Japan-U.S. security system.

By the way, our nation's legal system as a whole does not contain any provision for emergency concepts, while only the SDF Law has provisions for defense deployment, defense standby, and special actions but does not provide for any authority to recall reserve SDF personnel to active duty, leaving the SDF status unchanged from its peacetime posture.

Even though it is impossible for the SDF to cooperate with the U.S. Forces by deploying to the Korean peninsula, we should probably consider the provision of transportation support, resupply of naval ships engaged in maritime blockades, and collaboration in military actions such as backup support, patrols, and minesweeping. Further, both government and the private sector should probably actively engage in extending services support.

—Use of Military Force to Protect Air and Sea Territorial Rights

Protection of air and sea territorial rights is appropriate for an independent nation but is also indispensable in providing for the maintenance of base functions and smooth movement of U.S. Forces.

In December 1987, a Soviet Badger reconnaissance plane violated Okinawa air space for seven minutes and flew over important Japanese and U.S. air facilities. Under current regulations, use of military force which is the only means available to impede such activities or to force a landing is prohibited although warning shots may be fired.

Specifically, the constitutional interpretation is that use of military force is permissible under the issuance of a defense deployment order in the event of an urgent and illegal invasion of our nation.

Further, missile development has progressed to the point where surprise attacks from bases located beyond domestic air and sea territorial boundaries are possible, making it necessary to establish defensive air capabilities outside such boundaries, but the Defense Agency does not even sanction research of that nature.

Limitations on the use of weapons and the use of military force is vague while the government interpretation of the use of military force is an obstacle to prevention of surprise attacks. Such conditions make it impossible to guarantee the safety of U.S. Forces.

As part of an effort to revitalize the Japan-U.S. security system, the government must urgently pursue the establishment of a legal system concerning the operation of the SDF to provide for compatibility with the U.S. Asian Strategy and to provide for a functional WHNS.

An obstacle to progress in the above respect includes the government's constitutional interpretation concerning collective self-defense and use of military force.

Former French President de Gaulle asserted the stern international reality that "Friendship does not exist among nations. The only thing which exists is interest."

Fifty years have already passed since the end of World War II and our nation is now an economic giant, enjoying a politically enhanced position, but we can no longer take advantage of the United States to maintain our security. We should promote Asian stability by using the Japan-U.S. security system to actively seek a sharing of responsibility and role playing.

Unless we abandon self-complacent and selfish one-nation pacifism, we will face the collapse of the Japan-U.S. security system which could be called our lifeline and ultimately become an international orphan.

Japan: Expert Urges Review of U.S. Mutual Security Treaty

962B0033A Tokyo VOICE in Japanese Dec 95 pp 130-146

[Article by Terumasa Nakanishi, Kyoto University professor: "Japan-U.S. Security System Is Not Immortal: Rigid Arguments Concerning Indispensability of Security System Will Indeed Impair Future of Japan-U.S. Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Excessively Impetuous Redefinition of Security System

The post-Cold War world can be called a "brave new world." The Shakespeare drama, "Tempest," has a scene called ""Brave New World," which consisted of a plot in which the psychological impact of experiencing a variety of turbulence and ultimate arrival of a new age caused people to shout, "proud new world!" But in the same instance awakening to the reality that nothing had basically changed and the repetitive arrival of new problems, thus serving as words to characterize Shakespeare's "irony" and life's "profound truth."

Just before the collapse of the Berlin Wall, I predicted that the coming arrival of the post-Cold War period would be accompanied by the portrayal of a "Proud New World" (in an article titled, "A Dreary Peaceful Period," in the November 1989 issue of VOICE). In reality, the Cold War was terminated and the arrival of a "new world order" was proclaimed, but we now realize that the proclamation merely signaled the arrival of nothing other than a "proud new world." Many nations are now plagued by a "painful peace" as they face the rapid eruption of regional disputes, protracted economic depressions, and psychological devastation accompanied by the collapse of value concepts. There is probably no need for a detailed discussion of such phenomena here.

But now we have arrived at a juncture where there is a need for a close examination of the "profound truths of life" and the "irony of history" concerning the future of the Japan-U.S. security system which is the basis for Japanese-U.S. relations in view of the imminent arrival of the scenario called the "proud new world."

Just as we attempt to declare the "arrival of a new age" as if "no untoward event has arisen in the world," after overcoming the automotive trade friction issue and celebrating the "50th Anniversary of Hiroshima," the rape of a young girl by U.S. military personnel took place in Okinawa to impact the future of the Japan-U.S. security system.

The Japan-U.S. Summit Talks of November were scheduled to serve as a forum for affirming the so-called "redefinition of the Japan-U.S. security system" in the form of a joint statement and to announce *continued adherence* with the alliance even during the post-Cold War period. It appears that we face a need to give profound thought to the timing of the recent incident as it occurred in a manner which hardly allowed for an adequate response in the face of such events (in fact, we should say in the face of only such events).

First, in any event, we must admit that the recent attempt at "redefinition" was excessively impulsive. Joseph S. Nye, Jr, appointed as assistant secretary of defense (international security affairs) in the fall of 1994 engaged himself in a very dynamic "Nye Initiative" to work strenuously in publishing by early February of the following year the "Report on East Asian Strategy" (commonly known as the "Nye Report.")

The main features of the report called for 1) the need to separate "economic" and "security" issues relative to policies concerning Japan because of interest in Japan-U.S. relations of recent years upset by friction and 2) the maintenance of a U.S. military presence of "100,000" in East Asia (i.e., represented primarily by U.S. Forces located in Okinawa and South Korea) as an ultra- long-term commitment extending 10 to 20 years into the future in contrast to trends in arguments calling for the "withdrawal of U.S. Forces."

Many Japanese, who are convinced that the Japan-U.S. security system is indispensable were relieved at least for the time being when they saw this report. However, when one considered the then-progressing automotive negotiations friction, he could not help but sense the reflection of a "day-dream"-like quality in the report or to be seized by a sense that the report was "too good to be true."

Contrary to expectations, just as the automotive negotiations reached a crucial stage in May and Japan strongly resisted the establishment of "numerical goals," high U.S. government officials displayed their impatience and repeatedly stated, "Economic issues will probably have an adverse impact on overall Japan-U.S. relations including security," producing unprecedentedly unequivocal linkage between economic and security issues (i.e., pressure that the absence of concessions on economic issues will impact on security issues). The situation served to prove that a complete consensus had not been reached within the U.S. Government concerning the "Nye Initiative."

As if to reinforce the foregoing positions, the July edition of FOREIGN AFFAIRS magazine carried an article by Chalmers Johnson and E. B. Keene titled, "Peaceful Dismantling of the Japan-U.S. Security System" (which was originally written as an article titled, "Petrified Strategy of the Pentagon," and like other articles repeatedly issued, advocated abolishment of the security system— while the "Nye Report" called for the separation of economic and security issues—and severely criticized current long-term commitments for U.S. military presence. It became obvious that the attempt at "redefining" Japan-U.S. security as targeted in the Nye Initiative did not enjoy major support by U.S. domestic sources.

However, the recent incident in Okinawa is being treated as an especially serious issue because on the one hand it has triggered a "psychological impact" upon the Japanese, resurfaced that old but new image of "security issues," and occurred just before the pending November Japan-U.S. Summit Talks which were to be used as a forum with great fanfare for signing a declaration calling for the "redefinition" of the importance of the security system in the future.

The foregoing situation demonstrates that an attempt to seek an impetuous completion of a conspicuous future image for such an issue in the nebulous world of today has ironically resulted in the "solution of no problems whatsoever." We might call this a scenario in which we directly face the irony of a "proud new world."

Even in a world where the Cold War has ended, it is clear that the near-term maintenance of the Japan-U.S. security system is an indispensable option as a framework forming the basis for a continuing Japanese security system. However, notwithstanding, the Japan-U.S. government actions of the recent several months which purported to quickly attempt to accomplish a critical renewal of the security system through "redefinition" may have contrarily opened a "Pandora's box."

Although some speak of making a "commitment to maintain a U.S. military force of 100,000 over 20 years," specialists on international issues like ourselves wonder just who can make such long-term commitments beyond the scope of "mental concepts," while on the other hand, the Okinawans have embraced the unbearable sentiment, "Are the U.S. military bases going to remain for another 20 years?" and the recent rape incident may have led to the extremely explosive outburst of recent days.

Further, assertions for "redefinition," after simple "affirmation" of rigid adherence to the security treaty, resulted in the surfacing of the major issue of adjusting and reducing U.S. bases in Japan without adequate preplanning.

In any event, we must admit that we are speaking of a superficial attempt, lacking adequate debate, at claiming that we are speaking of a "redefinition" made in response to a major event such as the termination of the Cold War. In the post-Cold War age, all "impetuous initiatives" have resulted in painful backlashes from the real world. During transitory stages, trends resulting in new creations albeit fragile are not lacking in the ability to destroy something (especially any conspicuous attempt). We have already seen many cases where such "major concepts" and conspicuous "initiatives," which failed to pay adequate attention to the peculiar ironies of transitory periods, have resulted in failure. Included are such concepts as Gorbachev's "Common European House," Bush's "New World Order," Butros Butros Ghali's "Issues Addressing Peace," and Clinton's "New Pacific Community."

In July, before the Okinawa rape incident, I wrote as follows concerning the desired shape of the redefinition of the Japan-U.S. security system. "Just how much of an impetuous "redefinition of Japan-U.S. security" is possible in the face of such a transitory situation? If we were to say, If matters are allowed to progress as they presently are, we will fail 'we will succeed in achieving only redefinition' and revitalization' in a passive way, and eventually we will probably be placed in a position where we have to re-redefine' the security system. There is a need for Japan to engage in a widesweeping debate on genuine redefinition which encompasses a fundamental study of the politics, economics, and history of Japan-U.S. relations" (published on 6 July in the MAINICHI SHIMBUN).

Joseph Nye is a very prominent scholar (former Harvard University professor) and a very capable bureaucrat but, candidly speaking, lacks sensitivities enabling him to grasp nuances and ironies—qualities needed to deal in a transitory period. However, if I were to be impartial in the defense of Nye, the "Nye Initiative" is not excessively optimistic. Rather, we must not overlook the fact that the initiative reflected an element of pessimism concerning the future of Japan-U.S. relations. Supposedly, Nye was motivated to act because he felt anxiety in that "if trends continue their current pattern, we will face problems," as he viewed events such as the establishment of the socialist-led Murayama government and turbulent Japan-U.S. relations emanating from economic friction. (Refer to the 19 February 1995 issue of the WASHINGTON POST concerning Nye's impressions of such crises.)

However, on the other hand, if you take a look at Japanese politicians or bureaucrats, we note the significant absence of not only any sensitivities but any determination per se to either comprehend or deal with such issues.

Today, when we speak of individuals dealing in Japan-U.S. security matters, we must seek qualities which are rare and "almost nonexistent" in terms of untiring energy, a sixth sense, profound perception, and sensitivities concerning irony. Put another way, the situation concerning security is fraught with the elements of growing complexity and risk.

Security System Is Symbolized by U.S. Military Bases

One of the foremost factors influencing the foregoing situation can probably be attributed to resurfacing of "emotions" as a factor controlling the destiny of the Japan-U.S. security system. Already, U.S. Defense Department spokesman Burns has issued the view that the recent rape incident "impacted on overall Japan-U.S. relations" (4 October evening edition of the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN). Setting aside the objective significance of the matter, you can probably say that the recent Okinawa incident had a major impact in stirring anti-U.S. emotions among the Japanese of a proportion unprecedented since the Gulf war.

The recent rape of a young girl by U.S. military personnel can be genuinely summed up in the one word, "heinous," and we must repeatedly stress its irrational and wide departure from the spirit of "equal partnership" envisioned in "Japan-U.S. relations" versus the procedures found in Paragraph 5, Article 17 of the Status of Forces Agreement concerning investigations of suspects.

Some newspapers and magazines have written that "Okinawan postwar history is one of indignity," but it is not solely a case of "indignity," while the "humiliation of inequitable treaties" is constantly associated with the modern-day nuclear experience of Japan which affect the deep emotions of the Japanese people. "Pride as an economic giant" which was acquired through assiduous efforts in the postwar era crumbles, in vain, in the face of the "Status of Forces Agreement" and when they recall the humiliation of the occupation days versus the huge "annual costs of supporting the U.S. Forces" to the tune of 600 billion yen at the time of the "50th anniversary of the ending of World War II" as if to have salt rubbed into an open wound, we can say that something is wrong with the Japanese people if they fail to become emotional.

The foregoing type of "frustration" and eventual "resignation" genuinely depicted the "atmosphere under the security system" in terms of the postwar period. For Japanese citizens that are currently 40 to 50 years of age, their boyhood memory of their initial exposure to the "security system" probably consisted of television newscasts of groups of demonstrators clashing with police during appeals for removal of U.S. bases and of arrested U.S. military personnel being removed on U.S. military jeeps from Japanese police stations. In those days, the Japan-U.S. security system had a quality of magnifying the "sorrowful postwar" image. One would have never expected that such memories would be unexpectedly revived during the 50th anniversary of World War II. Many Japanese are carried away by the bewilderment of such memories.

Although glorified by such "modern-day" terms as "global partnership" and "redefinition of Japan-U.S. alliance," in essence, "the security system is symbolized by U.S. bases," and this is a case where we have once again been reminded of the true reality that nothing whatsoever has changed.

"Japan will provide bases and the United States will shoulder the obligation to defend Japan," reflects the very essence of the Japan-U.S. security system from the days of the initial treaty and that quality has not changed in any way whatsoever to this very day. Put another way, the ultimate terms which sustain the Japan-U.S. security system call for the linkage of "bases" and "U.S. military personnel."

The recent Okinawa incident occurred near a point where these two elements converge and therefore poses an issue which is more closely linked to the basis for the security system than questions, such as "Are we or aren't we going to join the U.S. Forces in the Gulf war down in the Persian Gulf?" or "How will we contribute to the regional security of Asia?" In other words, we can probably say that just as numerous "future-looking" words were exchanged, the "profound truth" and the "inescapable past" were thrust upon us by historical malevolence. At this juncture, we are forced to sense the arrival of the "Proud New World" in connection with the Japan-U.S. security system.

"Emotions" Are Truly "Inimical"

Many Japanese, being close to the problem, sensed a hard-to-explain "obscure feeling" and were never able to achieve a clear-cut separation of "reason" and "emotion" concerning the Japan-U.S. security system during the recent 20 years, but the foregoing situation has enabled them to achieve that separation.

In August, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN conducted a public opinion survey (after randomly selecting 3,000 individuals of voter age) in connection with the 50th anniversary of World War II, in which the question, "How should we handle the future of the Japan-U.S. security system?" resulted in 59.8 percent of the individuals surveyed answering, "We should maintain the current system" while 28.7 percent answered, "We should cancel the system" (as reported in the 15 August issue). However, when the survey was conducted again two months later in October with the same questions, those in favor of maintaining the security system registered at 43.5 percent while those favoring the cancellation of the system registered at 40.2 percent or roughly the same percentage for the two groups (as reported in the 17 October issue).

According to the newspaper, "those in favor of cancellation" by age group were 45.9 percent for those in their 20's, 44.4 percent for those in their 30's, and 44.3 percent for those in their 40's, reflecting very little variance by age group. Additionally, a sharp increase in those favoring cancellation was noted irrespective of party affiliations and occupation.

The foregoing change, which took place in a short period of two months, can be referred to as being of a nature which was unseen in Japanese attitudes toward the Japan-U.S. security system over the past several decades.

The foregoing situation clearly indicates that the recent Okinawa incident, the attendant base issues and the series of events associated with the Status of Forces Agreement have suddenly begun to have an effect on the people's perception of the Japan-U.S. security system and that "emotions" are playing a major underlying role in such changes.

However, Japanese must now realize that "emotions" represent one element which is "inimical" and must make a deliberate effort to restrain them. Basically, in this day of major transition it is especially necessary that we are aware that "emotions" relative to diplomatic issues is a vulnerable point for Japan. Put another way, we can probably say that as long as Japan is able to control its emotions, it will not make major mistakes in its future external relations.

Meanwhile, during this 50th anniversary following World War II, a variety of controversies arose, but if we are to take any lessons from prewar history, we cannot escape from the importance of restraining emotions in connection with external affairs beyond all other considerations. Moreover, an even more important consideration is, if Japan should display old "emotional behavior," we will witness the hardening of foreign impressions of us as being "unchangeable Japanese," leading to a grim loss of self-confidence at a time when we must take the initiative in seriously thinking of "Japan's options" as it faces the 21st century.

Today, as we debate Japan's options in international society with fresh sensitivities, an element which constantly functions as a limiting factor is the "unchangeable image of the Japanese" which must be referred to as a major problem of self-perception existing within the Japanese psyche rather than in terms of the foreign view of Japan.

As a description frequently used by Japanese themselves, "Japanese on a rampage of emotions" have frequently resulted in the justification of considerably irrational policies and external negotiations. However, excesses emanating from such a self-image have resulted in the closing of doors to options for Japan and eventually causing Japan to resume its pattern of "uncontrollable behavior." Japanese must undergo change and are now undergoing unequivocal change.

Such change is of an inevitable nature just as changes in lifestyles have caused modern-day Japanese to enjoy unquestionably longer legs and higher nose bridges. The myth asserting the "unchangeable Japanese" must be labeled as an erroneous "historical lesson" which disregards the laws inherent in history. It is important that we repeatedly appeal to pacifist ideals. However, if such appeals are backdropped by the element of excessive self-fear, they would be reflective of moral infidelity and face inevitable corruption. However, more than anything else, persistent abandonment of judicial faculties and excessive dependence on others out of self-fear, will lead to a dangerous situation depriving us of the energy to work ourselves out of various situations and cause us to lose all options except that of engaging in a "rampage."

Starting with former Prime Minister Hosokawa and from several other sources, we hear the phrase, "Converting Japan-U.S. relations into a mature relationship," but indispensable as a premise to a mature relationship with others are mature self-awareness and self-control. And the opportunity suggesting that possibility is coming. It is deemed important that we interpret and take actions accordingly in connection with events recently taking place relative to the Japan-U.S. security system.

We can probably say that "actions devoid of any emotions" indeed reflect rules "A" to "Z" to be followed in the conduct of Japan-U.S. relations in the post-Cold War period. These rules also apply equally to another debate on emotionalism which goes hand-in-hand with the current issue of "emotional outbursts" as they pertain to Japan-U.S. relations.

Perennial Argument for "Indispensability"

In the past several years, the argument purporting that "The Japan-U.S. alliance is indispensable even after the end of the Cold War" is deemed to have been given treatment on an excessively premise-less, sloganized, buddhist chant-like fashion. Such treatment is not necessarily wrong but was somehow excessively "guarded and unimpeachable" sounding. Most likely, it was underpinned by latent sensitivities of very deep pessimism. It appears the termination of the Cold War and the "impact of the Gulf war" were taken so seriously while the "once trodden path" of paranoia combined with the analysis of "Asian instability" transitioned into a argument favoring an object "to lean against for support."

That development caused the intuitive Japanese to embrace the feeling that the "security system represents a tumor" during these days of the post-Cold War period, whenever tales were told about the "indispensability of the security system," while everyone would become deadly silent and evince a "somber" ambiance. Setting aside the simple view that "the security system is no longer necessary because the Cold War has ended," even intelligence experts of considerable repute seem to be affected by the "peculiarities" of the status of "arguments for indispensability" and certainly do not express "disagreement," but it appears that such perennial arguments purporting "indispensability" evince an image absent the element of reality, causing one to sense malaise in terms of genuine feelings and to lapse into an eventual state of "somehow lacking any concern."

In the post-Cold War period, the argument that "Such and such should be the case" and the outlook that "It will probably evolve into such and such a situation," tend to become separated. The outlook "If things progress without change, they may fail" is quickly redirected to the words, "Accordingly, there is a need to do this and that in order to avoid that eventuality."

However, this is a case where we cannot convince people of skepticism because we are speaking of arguments associated with outdated styles lacking awareness that the end of the age of ideologies has been accompanied by a major decline in the enforceability of subjective ideas and normative propositions described partially through the use of the term "must...." If we were to exaggerate the description, it would be like entering the realm of relative theory in connection with Newton's dynamics.

In the post-Cold War world, contrary to the viewpoint of the majority, a tendency exists in which human beings "deliberate options" have been more frequently supplanted by the issuance of decisions based on "situational dynamics" underpinned by the sum total of more profound objective dynamics.

There is certainly a tendency to be pushed along with the "trends of the times," without being made thoroughly aware "why situations evolve in such a manner." We can readily perceive this fact, if we were to compare the situation just four or five years ago when the "New World Order" was controversial and the current situation.

Accordingly, even if an attempt is made to bring a matter to conclusion solely stating an argument, "This is the way it should be," the majority remain with the feeling that "You can say so, but it will probably not turn out to be the case." Candidly speaking, much of the argument purporting, "The Japan-U.S. security system is indispensable even in the post-Cold War period" somehow gave the impression of "superficiality" and, in the worse-case scenario, gave the listener the impression of "wreaking of propaganda" of a kind, contrary to intent.

The existence of such arguments for preservation of the security system gave birth to "somewhat of a lack of concern" among a broad spectrum of the conscientious middle class, and as can be seen in the recent Okinawa incident, some kind of unforeseen incident leads to a crisis situation projecting the sudden collapse of those supporting the security system. This phenomenon seems to explain results of the survey conducted by the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN, discussed earlier, which revealed a major swing in the pendulum within a mere two months from widespread support to widespread opposition to the security system.

I will repeat myself, but individuals representing the wide swing in the pendulum do not necessarily feel, "The security system is not necessary because the Cold War has ended" or "North Korea and China are nations with which we need not be concerned." We must not overlook the fact that a mentality or psychology peculiar to the post-Cold War period exists which says we have an accurate mental picture, but "emotions" are a separate consideration.

Accordingly, I believe the maintenance of enthusiasm for the Japan-U.S. security system; i.e., widespread creation of "support of our real intentions," although difficult, will require that we transcend the straightforward "arguments for indispensability" undermined by "superficiality" and "stubbornness" and that we establish a new argument for indispensability based on reality and, while the probability is limited, possibly a new argument for dispensability.

Alliance Does Not Mean Relations Among Friends"

Further, there are other problems occasioned by such straightforward "arguments for indispensability." The "divine command"-like conclusion that "There is nothing that can replace the Japan-U.S. security system...period" has been widely accepted as part of a conspicuous modern-day Japan bandwagon phenomenon with a concurrent creation of a simple image of an "immortal Japan-U.S. alliance," leading to the development in certain sectors in the recent several years of unnatural optimism (when measured by historical sensitivities) that the security system will be "automatically extended" into the mid-21st century for "another 50 years" in association with the 50th anniversary of World War II.

Two issues derive from the foregoing situation. First, naive optimism of this nature is eventually prone to convert to extreme pessimism when exposed to the "sudden winds" of reality. Second, unnatural optimism is susceptible to isolation from reality and acceptance as some sort of "spiritualism," leading to the placement of the Japan-U.S. security system on a pedestal and the eventual loss of enthusiasm for genuine support.

The question becomes, what sort of obsession exists in the backdrop for "arguments in support of indispensability?" Most likely, it appears that some profound factors are at play such as modern-day Japanese spiritual history pertaining to "Westernization" and "nativisim." However, at this point, I would like to direct our attention to one more "emotion issue" which differs from the "spastic-type" which relates to the Japan-U.S. security system and which precedes the aforementioned profound factors.

First, we encounter the issue of sensitivity of modern-day Japan which is prone to lean toward inertia because we do not wish to forfeit support for our past "successes." Such sensitivities are natural to a degree as long as we are speaking of human beings, but at issue here is the "degree of obstinacy." Excessive obstinacy in international relations will logically be impacted to a greater degree by the changing situation and will eventually force the selection of options in a greatly changed environment. Lack of concern for the external world and excessive malaise can create such obstinate attitudes, loss of the "ability to handle options," and a worsening capability to deal in a world of changes.

Further, such a situation can lead to excessive "psychological introduction" to relations with others known as alliances and the risk of falling into a rut of obscure love and hate relationships which should be avoided especially in international relations. The moment we learned that the United States, which was supposed to be a "partner in which we placed absolute trust," had been using clandestine listening devices with the assistance of the CIA, we were overwhelmed by the feeling of being "betrayed" and the pendulum swayed from a love to hate reading. Under such a situation, there is the risk that Japanese "faithfulness" is influenced by "emotion," impacting deeply on the psychology concerning the alliance.

However, if we were to consider past events and the structure created by the string of milestones reached in postwar Japan-U.S. relations, what is important at this juncture is "moderation" and "timeliness" of sensitivities. Espionage is truly a good example of activities associated with mature foreign relations.

However, this issue involves matters of even greater significance. During the days of the Japan-British alliance, Great Britain routinely deciphered Japanese diplomatic codes. Kijuro Shidehara, a role player in prewar Japanese diplomacy, wrote in his memoirs, "Fifty Years of Diplomacy," that he was impressed by the story that Sir Edward Grey, British minister of foreign affairs, highly regarded for his "noble character," avoided the inclination to read reports obtained through communication espionage activities and decided to follow the example himself, but it was during Grey's tenure in office that British intelligence activities had been expanded dramatically.

Grey was indeed of noble character, but the foreign ministry was organized in those days so that the minister had no need to see such reports in the process of making foreign policy decisions. You might say that the book reflects a lack of discernment concerning substance in relation to the workings of a "national institution" beyond the behavior of an individual official. Further, we can probably cite this as one example of the "naivet" which was common to a considerable degree among prewar Japanese experts on Great Britain and the United States.

The foregoing condition also relates to a profound issue existing to this day. That issue concerns the tendency wherein individual cultural and psychological "adoration" cause one to treat allied relationships as "ties which transcend convenience." Such a situation causes one to fail to conduct analytical evaluations of advantages and disadvantages and misconstrue as "mutual trust" quick dependence on vague "friendly relations," or when overtaken by malaise assume an attitude of forming relationships "at any cost," and the ultimate reflection of such conditions in the maintenance of alliances.

Operational Doctrine

The foregoing discussion leads us to two important points concerning the conduct of the future Japan-U.S. alliance. The first point pertains to the propriety of the so-called strategy "of dependence" whereby it is said, the Japan-U.S. security system contains "alternate approaches for the United States but none for Japan, requiring the latter to accept it at any cost." Even if the relationship is considered irreplaceable, one wonders if straightforward "dependence" is conducive to long-term preservation, but the answer should be obvious even in terms of relationships between individuals.

However, additionally or even before such considerations, the question arises, does the United States possess alternate plans in a realistic sense while there is an element which indicates the United States has lethargically condoned the security system without considering its national interests and growth and existence as a country. Certainly, we must not "take advantage" of current trends, but the very timely response given by the U.S. Government in relation to the recent Okinawa incident, in the least, had indicated that the United States places greater significance on the Japan-U.S. security system in terms of national interest than is perceived by many Japanese citizens.

Needless to say, theoretically, the United States has the option of returning to isolationism. However, opting for such a course is an unrealistic option for the United States similar to any possible option for Japan to become a military giant in today's world.

In other words, both Japan and the United States face equal difficulties in seeking alternate options relative to the Japan-U.S. security system. In this respect, any strategy of "dependence" which loses sight of the "balance of positions" underlying this situation cannot be considered to be a healthy one.

Another important point is that the foregoing situation is also connected to a variety of reform issues which currently concern Japan. In simple terms, the issue relates to how we will overcome modern-day Japan's bottleneck wherein "agreement is reached in generalities, but opposition exists relative to details." The fact that no one disagrees with issues such as administrative reform, deregulation, and market openings but that no progress is made is not only the result of "resistance associated with individual interests."

Just as a course of action is developed for objectives and options without any opposition, we suddenly witness objections to individual issues. Such an approach leads to an uncontrollable situation. If major objectives and individual issues are directly linked in the absence of an interim "operational doctrine," we inevitably face a scenario of "agreement with generalities, but opposition to details."

Even in terms of the Japan-U.S. alliance, we now see the creation of a scenario of "agreement with generalities, but opposition to details." It appears that the Okinawa incident and the associated base issue are one facet of the situation in which we witness "agreement with generalities, but opposition to details" in connection with the Japan-U.S. security system. During this post-Cold War period which lacks a clear-cut threat, consideration of such an "operational doctrine" is of ultimate importance in terms of how we will proceed to preserve the Japan-U.S. alliance.

Particularly, we should probably devise a more equitable formula for negotiating the details of "cost" to maintain the alliance. The issues we face in this respect pertain to the questions of how should Japan present its proposals and should U.S. methods and means used in the past relative to negotiations remain the same?

We are capable of absorbing the costs of "budgets to support U.S. bases" at current levels, but we are unable to agree to "numerical goals" as part of the economic negotiations. For the near term, "following the footsteps of the United States" diplomatically relative to United Nations and Iran policy is possible, but that is necessarily not the case with policy concerning the northern territories issue or Asian policy. The question becomes, what should be the categorizations? Needless to say, the major differences associated with the individual cases preclude a strict definition of interests. However, we must establish some sort of "objective" and keep the United States informed as part of indispensable procedures associated with the "redefinition of the Japan-U.S. security system" as a function treated with highest of priority.

The conduct of joint United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, exchange of information on the east Asian situation, and establishment of "Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (SCSA)" may be important, but they appear to be unimportant details. The question is, in preserving the alliance, wherein lies the post-Cold War Japanese national interests and wherein lies the common national interests of Japan and the United States? In working on the "redefinition" for the post-Cold War period, these are probably questions that must be answered prior to working on concrete policies.

Moreover, an essential element in the conduct of such work is a study of the various conditions relating to the Japan-U.S. security system. However, crucial in that respect is that if we limit our review to "the obscurities of the world today" and "the possibility of instability in the Korean peninsula and China," we must stress that our review will have been inadequate in terms of examining our long-term options.

Certainly, we may face some restrictions in terms of the format used on government policy documents. It is for that reason that a much longer, in-depth active debate is now urgently needed by the private sector; but in reality such efforts have been relegated to "obscurity," and there is the risk that we will end up with the "indispensability" approach. However, in reality, if we relegate the discussions to "obscurity" without any examination of the long-term outlook, we will consign the future of the Japan-U.S. security system to equal "obscurity."

Even if that argument is made, as long as the current state of obscurity exists, the question of whether or not we can afford to overlook the future beyond should arise; but that is the point at which we must point to the criticality of "concepts concerning long-term strategy." Needless to say, there is the risk of making errors in predictions. Thus, there will be times in the future when we realize that the perception itself that "the present is obscure" turned out to be in error. Human perceptions are rife with errors. It is important that we are profoundly aware of that fact in attempting to make long-term predictions as we look into the distant future. Taking such an approach gives us clear-cut guidance in determining "where we are today."

The approach should also give birth to a minimum of several long-term issues which must become part of the project at this early stage. And assuming such a long-term perspective will enable us to become more sensitive to the emerging changes in the environment. A premise applicable in this approach is to take action on our mistaken predictions and factors which we previously failed to consider while an important consideration is to remain flexible in being responsive to new situations and making necessary changes. The long-term strategy must include an effort to "make revisions" at all times.

I participated in the project on a fringe basis, but in the latter part of the 1980's when it became clear that the Cold War was coming to an end, an influential U.S. think tank received major aid from the federal government and embarked on a research project concerning long-term strategy covering "Visualization of the world in 2010" and available U.S. options. Today, "followup" and "review" of the project is still underway. However, of utmost importance beyond a "flexible rewrite" is that the project must not be pursued on long-term situational discussions which are predicated on an approach which is based on "predetermined conclusions."

Today, in Japan, whenever an attempt is made at conducting a study on the situation affecting the Japan-U.S. security system, there is a tendency to a considerable degree to proceed on "predetermined conclusions." I believe that such an approach is reflective of the psychological fragility" of Japanese as a whole based on individual confidence that one's personal conclusions are correct and the inability to divorce one's mental process from one's social standing. And the dangers to which the nation is exposed by such an approach are probably obvious, without referring to the failures of prewar Japanese military associated with similar projects reflected in several "defense plans."

There is a need for us to once again confirm the perception that the interests of "Japan as a whole" and the "existence of Japanese" are dependent on the proper execution of the foregoing tasks—this is a premise which is frequently applicable to nations with numerous exposures to international society.

Three Perspectives Concerning Japan-U.S. Security System

In any event, if we were to think in terms of a 15- to 20-year outlook, I believe the situation surrounding the Japan-U.S. security system will evolve over three stages. I am unable to provide a detailed description in this article, but they are available in the article titled, "Options for the Year 2010" published in the June 1995 edition of VOICE. I hope to seek another opportunity in the near future to discuss the three-stage evolution in a more detailed manner. As we pass through each stage, the main issue should become clearer.

What I am addressing here is that we will face a trend which seeks a new identity for the Japan-U.S. security system or a new basis for the alliance, as well as an acceleration in such challenges. And, in that respect, we must point out that in substance we have the option of only three possible courses of action.

One course is to provide increasing clarity to the security system's identity as a "security system providing for preservation of the current constitution." If the system were to be treated as designed to preserve the current Japanese constitution and if the security system were to be used as a framework to maintain Asian international order in terms of international law, we will have established a clear-cut identity. Such an arrangement has not been totally absent in history, in view of the "Locarno Treaty" of 1925 concerning Germany.

The second course would call for an approach in which we would promote an "alliance with China." This approach would probably provide for the strongest of identities as a classic alliance.

The third course would call for a "security community," joining Japan and the United States on the basis of security and economics, in which we would seek a Japan-U.S. free trade agreement or economic integration.

There is no need to say so, but each of these options entail major obstacles in terms of reality and are considered to have limited possibilities in the face of trends prevailing in the post-Cold War period.

Most likely, in the world of the future, Cold War alliances will ultimately be converted into "ententes," rather than to face outright cancellation. In ancient times, in instances of flexible international environments and in cases of countries which mutually made an effort to avoid the "existence of enemies," "ententes" were formed to provide for special collaboration as political alliances. The question now is, how should we approach trends calling for "conversion from alliances to ententes" as we enter the beginning of the 21st century?

For the time being, we can probably discuss a number of possible options from such an outlook. However, I will repeat myself in saying we must stress the importance of our awareness, attitudes, posture, and method in conducting our debate.

In conclusion, perspectives and attitudes which are most important as we view the Japan-U.S. security system include: 1) Maintenance of a calm and detailed appreciation of the magnitude of national interests placed in the security system by the United States, 2) Attempt at establishment of an "operational doctrine" shaped for consistency with the current age for use in administering the security system, and 3) Assumption of a long-term outlook with options based on varying probabilities.

Engaging in the analysis of future concepts for the Japan-U.S. security system in view of such factors should not limit our examination to the issue herein discussed but involve the capabilities of the nation in view of the maturity and pride of Japanese under Japanese history.

Japan: Government Said Going 'Overboard' at Sobe Facility

OW0504150596 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 4 Apr 96 p 1

[Article by international consultant Yukio Okamoto: "Sobe Telecommunications Facility Issue; The State Should Consider Letting Mr. Chibana Enter His Land — Appeal to the People's Reasoning on the Necessity of the Facility"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. military's Sobe telecommunications facility has become a symbolic issue representing problems related to the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. It seems that the central government is going overboard in dealing with landowner Shoichi Chibana's demand for return of his plot inside the communications facility. I cannot help but see this like a man trying to shave his beard with a Chinese broadsword.

First of all, the government has failed to gain public understanding for the basis on which it allegedly has authority at this point to continue using Chibana's plot. The expression, "it cannot be said at once that this [occupation of the plot] is illegal," in itself, shows the government's lack conviction. It is only because the government tries to put up an argument that lacks strong legal foundation that people fell that "the state, which is supposed to defend law, is breaking it." Since the government finds it difficult to back up its argument on the basis of domestic laws, it has to base its explanation on the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and the Status of Forces Agreement. However, this in turn has resulted in further fueling public resentment. The conclusion arrived at is that because Japan is required to provide the United States with necessary land, it has to take away Chibana's plot. Of course, Japan is obligated to do so under the security treaty, but this land is being provided to the U.S. military for Japan's own sake. The Sobe communications facility is important to the security of Japan, just as much as a light house or radar system. This is the sort of thing the government should emphasize.

Instead of arguing that "it is not illegal," the government should frankly tell the people: "It is regrettable but we have lost our legal grounds in light of domestic laws. However, we cannot help but place restrictions on the private rights of one landowner for the sake of the whole nation. We seek your understanding of our predicament."

For example, there exist some plots through which public roads pass and that have not been purchased by the government and whose ownership remains in the hands of private individuals. If the owners of these plots were to file lawsuits to demand their return, people would not be able to use the roads in full. The government should find it easier to gain more sympathizers by explaining that the same situation exists at Sobe.

Secondly, despite reports about radicals planning to come to Okinawa from Mainland Japan, the security measures currently in effect only give people the impression there is a duel going on between "a peace-loving private individual" and "an authoritarian state." It is only natural that police authorities placed at their relevant posts should do their utmost to enforce security. However, as a result of all this, the government has clearly failed in its attempt to correctly publicize its stance. The government would have made a bold decision if, for instance, instead of setting up a major security operation, it had set up a relatively small-scale one in which police authorities only took action to oust radicals who tried to force their way into the Sobe facility and interfere with the facility's operations. This is because the government would have had to take responsibility if the facility's operations had been disrupted for even a short time as a result of any delay in the police response to such a development. There is nothing wrong with the government preparing itself for the worst, but what is more important is avoiding a situation in which it appears the government is engaged in a duel with a citizen.

Moreover, the government should not be overly concerned if the issue remains unresolved, despite the fears it could have an adverse effect on Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's summit meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton. Right now, Japan is going through the agonies of a democratic process, and the government should simply point out to the United States that this is what is happening. That in itself should in no way damage the bilateral alliance.

Even at this stage, the government should still seek to communicate with Mr. Chibana and allow him and his family to peacefully enter his land. The Chibana family's entry would be reported via television, not only to the Japanese public but to people all over the world. However, we should stop to think what kind of message such television coverage would convey to the audience. The message should not be "the Japanese Government fails to enforce security at a U.S. military facility." It should be a message of "democracy." What people will see is what happens in a completely democratic country. Even if Chibana were to reject the government's offer by insisting that his supporters also be allowed to enter his land, the fact the government made efforts to move the situation one step forward would be conveyed to many people.

Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota's refusal to follow government orders to proxy sign the lease has not only gained the backing of the majority of the Okinawan people, but has also won the support of many people throughout Japan. Therefore, Governor Ota should stick to his beliefs in regard to those aspects over which sensible people have an understanding. In that sense, it is unwise to allow the Sobe issue — in which a single landowner, who owns a plot that is merely one-two thousandth [.0005 percent] of the total area occupied by the Sobe facility, has in effect gained control of the entire site — to become a symbol of Okinawa base issues. The governor's rejection of proxy signing is not aimed solely at the Sobe facility. Rather, it is believed his action addresses a more basic issue — that of unfairness.

Once administrative authorities firm up their policies, it is difficult for them to change their position. The way things are going now, however, the "Sobe duel" will become a prime target for government critics and help send a wave of anti-security treaty sentiment through Japan. In effect, the problem lies in how the government communicates with the people. The current situation in which the burden of the Japan-U.S. security arrangement is placed on the shoulders of the 1.2 million Okinawan people, who comprise only one percent of Japan's total population, cannot be changed by mere words of sympathy. What is required here is that the government implement drastic measures. To do this, however, the crucial precondition that must be satisfied is that the government gain the people's confidence.

The central government must approve Mr. Chibana's peaceful entry to his plot, deflate the Sobe issue to its original proportions, and show its courage in joining hands with the Okinawa prefectural government to tackle the bigger issues in Okinawa.

Japan: Editorial Says Public Interests Outweigh U.S. Bases Issue

OW0504132096 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 3 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 3

[Editorial: "In Dealing With the Military Base Issue, It Is Necessary To Attach Importance to 'Public Interest'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the expiration of a lease contract for a plot of land within the U.S. military's Sobe Communications Site in Yomitan Village, Okinawa Prefecture, the continued use of the facility has now lost a clear legal basis.

The procedures for the forced use of the site have been badly delayed for such reasons as Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota's refusal to sign compulsory lease documents for private land within U.S. base compounds. It is also expected that it will take considerable time for the Okinawa Land Expropriation Committee to grant permission for emergency use of the site, as requested by the central government. Taking into consideration the impact on security in Japan and the Asia-Pacific region, this is a grave situation.

We have to say that former Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's administration bears great responsibility for the delay in taking proper action with regards to the governor's refusal to proxy sign. The situation may also cast a cloud over the Japan-U.S. summit between Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and President Bill Clinton set for mid-April.

To settle the present situation as soon as possible, the Land Expropriation Committee should immediately start discussion on the emergency or forced use of the Sobe facility.

The land at issue is just one-two thousandths of the facility's entire area. Tension mounted at the site on 1 April when the landowner and his supporters demanded access to the property.

Cool-headed action will be needed to prevent the situation from turning violent.

Until emergency use of the facility is approved, the central government intends to reject the landowner's entry onto his property and to continue the extraordinary use.

The government's policy is based on such points as Japan's obligation to offer facilities to U.S. Forces under the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty as well as the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement and the "U.S. forces' management right." The government maintains that the current emergency steps "do not immediately mean illegality." In fact, the Constitution authorizes the property rights of individuals while it also stipulates that the nation must observe treaties it concludes.

We also believe that, for its part, the Japanese Government has no alternative but to take such measures if it respects "public interests," such as our country's peace and security.

In a (1965) lawsuit on the return of part of the U.S. military's Itazuke Base (currently Fukuoka Airport), the Supreme Court rejected the landowner's demand for the return of his property, and ruled that the "importance of the property to national security outweighed the benefits the parcel would bring its owner if he were to regain control of it."

Considering the fact that as much as 75 percent of military facilities used by the U.S. Forces in Japan is concentrated in Okinawa Prefecture and they account for 10 percent of the prefecture's total area, it is only natural for the central government to actively promote the realignment and reduction of U.S. bases in Okinawa as well as their transfer to mainland Japan. During the February Japan-U.S. summit, the two countries agreed to bear down on this issue as the most priority item.

Nevertheless, the Japan-U.S. working-level consultations have so far failed to produce "visible" results other than a decision to shift the U.S. military's live-fire drills currently conducted across prefecture Highway 104 in Okinawa to other sites in mainland Japan. This is mainly because many municipal governments in other places in Okinawa and mainland Japan, where U.S. military facilities or functions might be transferred, oppose the move.

To break the deadlock in the situation, Hashimoto and his cabinet need to make concrete decisions. Even if they advocate a general policy of "realigning and reducing" U.S. military bases in Okinawa, the problem remains unsettled as long as they fail to put forth specific proposals to achieve the policy. We strongly urge the ruling and opposition parties to transcend party lines and persuade local governments concerned to cooperate in realigning and reducing U.S. bases in Okinawa.

At the same time, the government should make efforts to deepen public understanding of the importance of Japan-U.S. security arrangements to prevent calls for realigning and reducing U.S. military bases from leading to moves "opposing the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and U.S. military bases."

In particular, the government needs to straightforwardly explain the strategic importance of U.S. military bases in Okinawa in view of the international situation, such as the Korean peninsula situation and unstable China-Taiwan relations.

Japan: LDP Proposes Aid to U.S. Forces in Emergencies

OW0504152096 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 3 Apr 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] On 2 April, the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] Research Commission on Security (with former Defense Agency [DA] Director General Tsutomu Kawara as chairman) compiled a nine-point package of measures in connection with a possible "emergency in the Far East," including an emergency on the Korean peninsula. The package covers pending issues, including U.S. forces' use of commercial Japanese airports and ordinary harbors and port facilities. As a result of the recent rising of tension between the PRC and Taiwan, the United States has pointed out to Japan the need for bilateral cooperation to address a possible "emergency in the Far East." However, this is the first time that Japan has clearly presented a package of concrete steps for providing support to the United States.

On the basis of this nine-point proposal, the commission's chief and deputy advisers plan to hold a meeting as early as 4 April and begin making arrangements with officials in charge of the matter at the Foreign Ministry, Transport Ministry, the DA, and other relevant government ministries and agencies to work out legislation necessary for the implementation of the measures to support U.S. forces.

The topics the commission plans to study are divided into three categories: 1) the use of facilities and sites, among other measures; 2) logistic support for U.S. forces; and 3) general support. The use of civilian airports by U.S. military aircraft and harbors by naval vessels comes under "the use of facilities and sites" category.

U.S. forces' use of civilian airports and harbors is currently approved under Article V of the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement [SOFA]. However, this is limited to stop-overs when aircraft, naval vessels, or military vehicles are moving from one location to another; and, moreover, requires prior consultation with the Transport Ministry.

To allow U.S. forces to use Japanese facilities as operational bases in case of an emergency, there have emerged within the commission such ideas as revising the SOFA and expressly stating that "use by U.S. forces will be approved" under the condition that consultations will be held between the Japanese and U.S. Governments, or to designate in advance certain airports that U.S. forces may use, along with stipulating conditions for their usage.

Working out necessary domestic legislation — for securing fuel and other supplies, assisting U.S. forces in transporting goods within Japan, repairing aircraft and naval vessels, and other activities — is the featured topic for review by the commission in regard to Japan's providing logistic support to U.S. forces. Currently, there are no Japanese laws covering such activities. In the past, fuel has been supplied to U.S. forces during military exercises in the form of a "DA administrative vice minister's notice."

Topics other than those regarding measures to provide support to U.S. forces include rescuing Japanese nationals [abroad], patrolling coastal areas, ensuring security at important facilities, and dealing with mass influxes of refugees. In regard to the issue of rescuing Japanese nationals, in particular, the commission plans to conduct studies, keeping in mind such cases as when U.S. military personnel may have to board rescue aircraft dispatched by the Japanese Government to countries at war or when Japanese nationals may have to board U.S. military aircraft when the government is unable to send its rescue aircraft there.

Japan: LDP Draft Report on Defense Cooperation With U.S. Revealed

OW0704120996 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 3 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] A draft report of the coalition-leading Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] Security Research Commission (chaired by Tsutomu Kawara, former Defense Agency director general) on Japan-U.S. defense cooperation in an emergency in the Far East was revealed on 2 April. The report incorporates various topics for discussion, including the use of Japanese civil airports by U.S. forces.

In the "Japan-U.S. joint statement on security" to be issued after the summit meeting between Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and President Bill Clinton on 17 April, both the Japanese and U.S. Governments are expected to agree on promotion of defense cooperation between Japan and the United States. The two countries are also expected to start a review of "Japan-U.S. defense cooperation guidelines," which stipulate concrete measures to be taken by the U.S. forces and the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] in emergency. The LDP's draft report serves as a "basis for discussions between the two countries on reviewing" the defense cooperation guidelines, (according to a government source). The party intends to compile proposals as early as the end of the current Diet session.

The draft report divides measures to support the United States into the following three types: 1) use of Japanese facilities and sites by the U.S. forces; 2) logistical support for U.S. forces; and 3) general support. As part of the use of facilities and sites, the draft report stipulates the common use of SDF bases by U.S. forces and the SDF, the use of civil airports and port facilities by U.S. forces, and protection of U.S. military bases in Japan and U.S. military servicemen and civilian employees in the military service.

It also says that Japan's logistical support for U.S. forces includes providing fuel and other supplies, transporting commodities for U.S. forces domestically, repairing U.S. warships and aircraft, and providing medical services to the U.S. forces.

Moreover, the draft report notes the need to provide financial cooperation to U.S. forces, assist with noncombatants' evacuation, rescue Japanese and Americans stranded in war-torn zones, guard coastlines and important facilities in Japan as a precaution against acts of terrorism, and work out measures to deal with a possible mass exodus of refugees following conflicts abroad.

Because the draft report focuses on "countermeasures at home," it excludes Japan's cooperation with UN economic sanctions and the SDF's direct support for the U.S. forces from the items for discussion. The draft report says that "it takes time to coordinate these issues with constitutional provisions that ban Japan's use of collective self-defense rights."

Japan: LDP's Kato Rejects Demands for Collective Defense Policy

OW0604054196 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 4 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Koichi Kato, secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], criticized those LDP and New Frontier Party members calling for a reinterpretation of the Constitution on the issue of collective defense rights or for special legislation to cope with emergency situations. In a speech made at the LDP headquarters on 3 April, Kato stated, "The Taiwan and Korean issues should not be used to support dogmatic arguments."

In the speech, Kato stressed Japan must maintain its noncollective defense policy, saying: "In the old days, Japan's overseas military operations caused problems in many places. Since the days of former Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida, the posture of the LDP has been that Japan defends itself but never ventures out." Kato then noted that even if conflicts take place in the Korean peninsula or the Taiwan Straits, "Japan will not dispatch the Self-Defense Forces (to assist U.S. forces) acting on its collective defense rights, especially since neighboring countries would never welcome such involvement from Japan."

Referring to Japan's response to possible conflicts in Taiwan or Korea, Kato noted, "Japan can adequately cope with those conflicts within the framework of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty." In conclusion, he stressed there is no need to revise the implementation of the Constitution or to formulate special wartime legislation.

Japan: Hashimoto Airs Concern Over DPRK DMZ Incursions

OW0804033796 Tokyo KYODO in English 0232 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 8 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto expressed concern Monday [8 April] over a series of incursions by North Korean troops into the demilitarized zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea.

Hashimoto said North Korea appears to be trying to bring the United States to the negotiating table, but such actions are "extremely dangerous."

"I'm worried about the occurrence of a military accident," Hashimoto told reporters at his official residence.

The U.N. command said about 230 North Korean soldiers armed with mortars and machine guns entered the joint security area of the truce village of Panmunjom on Sunday evening for the third consecutive day and withdrew after carrying out exercises for two and a half hours.

On Friday and Saturday, armed North Korean troops also entered the demilitarized zone in a similar manner, the U.N. command said.

The series of incursions followed Pyongyang's announcement Thursday that it would no longer abide by the rules governing the buffer zone set up under the armistice that ended the 1950-1953 Korean war.

The truce accord prohibits troops from carrying heavy weapons into the demilitarized zone and requires any soldiers entering the zone to wear special insignia.

North Korea is seeking the replacement of the armistice accord, signed in July 1953 by North Korea, China and U.S.-led forces, with a peace treaty with the U.S. but Washington has refused negotiations with Pyongyang on such a treaty.

Japan: Man Suspected of Exporting Sarin Materials to DPRK

OW0804050596 Tokyo KYODO in English 0425 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kobe, April 8 KYODO — Police arrested a 34-year-old trading company employee Monday [8 April] on suspicion of smuggling to North Korea materials that can be used to produce sarin nerve gas.

Tanetoshi Ri, an employee of Kobe-based trading company Toa Gijutsu Kogyo, allegedly violated the foreign exchange control law and other related laws that regulate the export of strategic materials, police said.

Ri is suspected of having exported 50 kilograms of sodium fluoride Jan. 24 and the same amount of hydrofluoric acid Feb. 15 aboard a North Korean ship, police said.

Police raided a total of eight places, including the company's office in Kobe's Nagata Ward, searching for evidence.

Sarin nerve gas was used in the attack on the Tokyo subway system, allegedly by the Aum Shinrikyo religious group in March last year. The attack killed 11 people and left thousands injured.

Police said Ri purchased the materials from a pharmaceutical company in Kobe on two occasions.

If all the smuggled materials are used, more than 170 kg of sarin could be produced, police said.

Police are also planning to hear from the 47-year-old president of Toa Gijutsu Kogyo, established in 1963 with capital of 10 million yen and engaged in exporting parts of ships and steel products to North Korea.

Japan: Firm Raided for Suspicion of Smuggling Chemical to DPRK

OW0804063296 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0305 GMT 8 Apr 96

[Announcer-read report; from the "NHK News" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] A trading company in Kobe is suspected of having illegally exported to the DPRK — without a permit from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] — such chemicals as sodium flouride, the export of which is regulated by law. As the suspicion grows, the Hyogo Prefectural Police Department conducted a house search today [7 April] of this company and other places, and at the same time arrested a company employee for an alleged violation of foreign exchange control, foreign trade control, and other laws.

[Begin recording of unidentified reporter] The police made a house search of eight places, including the head office of the Toa Gijutsu Kogyo [East-Asia Technological Industries] located in Kobe's Nagata Ward, and at the same time arrested a suspect — a company employee named Tanetoshi Ri.

According to the police investigation, Ri is suspected of loading a total of 100 kilograms of such chemicals as sodium fluoride and hydrofluoric acid onto North Korean freighters that entered Kobe and other ports on two occasions in January and February this year, and illegally exporting them to North Korea without a permit from MITI.

These two chemicals are compounds that can be used as raw materials for producing fluorocarbons or livestock pesticides. However, the police indicate that since these chemicals can also be used as raw materials for producing chemicals for military purposes, it is necessary to obtain a permit from MITI if they are to be exported.

While cross-examining suspect Ri about the actual use of these chemicals, the police also plan to ask the company management about the relevant circumstances. [end recording]

Japan: Ruling Parties Adopt New Policy Toward DPRK

OW0704101296 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 3 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The coalition parties — which had been saying that they would "play a leadership role in finding a way to resume negotiations with the DPRK" — have adopted a policy of devoting themselves to "improving the environment" for gaining understanding from the countries concerned, including the ROK, by reviewing their fundamental stand of the past and entrusting the task of making direct contacts with the DPRK (North Korea) to the government. Based on these ideas, the ruling parties recently firmed up their intention of dispatching a delegation to the ROK this month to give indirect support to governmental contacts between Japan and the DPRK.

Regarding the policy change, Taku Yamasaki, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] Policy Research Council, said: "In addition to formal diplomatic channel, a political channel was formed, through which we have been trying to break the current situation. But we could not link our efforts to resumption of negotiations. Therefore, we came to the conclusion that it is desirable for us to deal with the issue though formal channels rather than repeating the same thing."

It seems that LDP Secretary General Koichi Kato and Yamasaki, who have thus far been playing a leadership role in the diplomacy between Japan and the DPRK, also intend to avoid criticism from within the party about "the two rounds of rice aid being useless" by resuming negotiations soon.

Japan: Government Making 'Top Secret' Contacts With DPRK

OW0704131596 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 3 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has started contacts with the DPRK (North Korea) in top secret for the purpose of resuming talks on diplomatic relations. It is because North Korea has indicated a positive approach toward improving its relations with Japan, the United States, and the ROK. In addition, since North Korea has called on the ROK to resume South-North dialogue, "conditions have been created for consultations with North Korea without the possibility of arousing criticism from the ROK that Japan should not try, 'to approach North Korea by ignoring the ROK,'" (as stated by a source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA].) There is no knowing how the contacts will develop in the future, because the position indicated by North Korea still remains ambiguous in connection with a variety of conditions. However, there is a possibility that the current consultations may lead to a breakthrough in the efforts to resume normalization talks.

According to a source connected with Japan-DPRK diplomacy, the North Korean Foreign Ministry began improving its structure for negotiations with Japan from the beginning of this year by, for example, increasing the staff in charge of Japan affairs. Then, North Korea started sending "signals for improving relations between the two countries," (as stated by a senior MOFA official). For example, North Korea has avoided making any clear-cut denunciation against measures taken by the Japanese Government in dealing with the territorial dispute with the ROK over Takejima Island, (which is known as Tokto in Korean). In analyzing the reasons why North Korea has taken a positive approach toward Japan, a MOFA source said: "It is because North Korea intends to obtain aid by improving its relations with the United States by means of holding direct negotiations with the United States while ignoring the ROK."

North Korea has sustained serious losses from the flooding last summer. Moreover, it has been noted that, since North Korea's serious economic situation has intensified, it submitted a request to the United Nations for additional aid last month. One way to overcome economic difficulties is to urgently resume the dialogue with Japan on food aid.

On the other hand, the Japanese Government has made the following decision: "If North Korea should take unpredictable actions because of a social crisis such as a food shortage, this would be the worst development. Therefore, measures should be taken to ensure at least a channel for dialogue by resuming talks on normalizing diplomatic relations," (as stated by a MOFA source). Therefore, Japan has continuously attempted to find an opportunity to resume talks. However, Japan's expectations do not necessarily conform to North Korea's expectations for obtaining aid at an early date. In this regard, the economic aid issue will probably be brought up at future consultations on resuming talks on normalizing diplomatic relations.

In making secret contacts with North Korea this time, the government has maintained close contacts with the ROK Government at the same time. Following the delegation of three ruling coalition parties that visited North Korea in March 1995, the government has not been able to resume its talks with North Korea. It is because the Japan-ROK relationship has been seriously affected by disputes over the understanding of past history and the territorial issue over the Takeshima island. Nevertheless, Japan-ROK relations are improving now and, if the domestic situation in the ROK stabilizes after its general elections and if North-South dialogue resumes, this would be favorable for the resumption of talks on normalizing Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations.

Japan: Hashimoto, Yeltsin Summit Slated for 19 Apr

*OW0604093096 Tokyo KYODO in English
0915 GMT 6 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto will meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin April 19 in Moscow for the first Russo-Japanese summit since 1993, government sources said Saturday [6 April].

In October 1993, Yeltsin met with then Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa when he visited Tokyo.

Hashimoto will be the first Japanese prime minister to visit Moscow since the 1985 tour of then Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Hashimoto is scheduled to leave Japan April 18 and attend a nuclear power safety summit of group of seven major industrial countries and other participants including Ukraine, where the Chernobyl nuclear plant is located, following his talks with Yeltsin.

He will return to Japan April 21.

Hashimoto is expected to reaffirm the important bilateral statement issued by Hosokawa and Yeltsin in October 1993, which confirmed the existence of a territorial dispute over the four northern islands off Hokkaido, the sources said.

Hashimoto will urge the Russian president to move toward solving the territorial issue and conclude a bilateral peace and friendship treaty to complete normalization of ties, the sources said.

Hashimoto is also likely to pledge continued support to Russia's reformist policy, according to the sources.

But any significant progress in the territorial dispute is unlikely because Russia shows no signs of softening its stance over the issue, they added.

The dispute over the four islands, which Russia seized toward the end of World War II and has occupied since, has been the major stumbling block for improving and expanding the bilateral relationship.

Japan: East Asia's Strategic Environment in 21st Century

*962B0014A Tokyo SEKAI NO KANSEN in Japanese
Dec 95 pp 70-75*

[Article by Shunji Taoka, editorial department, ASAHI SHIMBUN: "JMSDF in the Next Century—1. Volatile Period; Forecasting East Asia's Strategic Environment in the Early 21st Century"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In considering Defense Buildup Plans the most complex and critical element is probably time lag. As an example, among naval ships to be contracted under the next Mid-Term Defense Buildup Program (FY1996-2000), which goes into effect in the next fiscal year, those contracted for in the last year of the program will be completed four or five years later and, under today's standards, will remain on active status for 24 years in the case of destroyers and 16 years for submarines; i.e., until the end of 2020. Even the restructuring of military units often takes about 10 years for complete execution of plans, while it is normal for research and development to take about 10 years from birth of a concept to completion of prototypes and another five to six years to reach mass production and unit deployment. Studies on the Air Self-Defense Force's (ASDF) next-generation (FSX) support fighter plane to replace the F-1 (attack plane) were conducted in 1980 and 1981, approved in 1982 for the procurement of 24 planes as part of the "1981 Mid-Term Defense Buildup Program" (1983-1987), while the initial flight tests of the FSX took place in October 1995, and unit deployment is projected to take place in 1999, reflecting a requirement of about 20 years from the initiation of studies until actual deployment.

The international situation defies prediction even on a weekly basis. Even if fiscal, domestic political, and technical trends lend themselves to somewhat better predictability, making projections for such elements 10 years in advance is an impossibility. If there were a genius existing five years ago who could have predicted the birth of a Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ) coalition government, a naval fleet review of the Maritime Self-Defense Forces (MSDF) by an SDPJ prime minister, and the utterance by him of the words, "close adherence to the Japan-U.S. alliance," he would probably have been treated as a very eccentric individual. For more than 20 years I have said, "Even if the SDPJ should assume control of the government, the abolishment of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) cannot take place. Assumption of government control will require the support of the majority of the public and as long as the majority approves of the SDF, the SDPJ will be able to assume government control only when it recognizes the SDF;" however, I never seriously thought that an SDPJ prime minister would appear on the scene.

Even if situational changes were predictable to a degree, projecting the timing of such changes is more difficult. Immediately after the intervention of Soviet forces in Afghanistan at the end of 1979 in a commentary published in the ASAHI SHIMBUN I wrote, "Negotiating supply routes over the Hindu Kush Mountain range is difficult and the Soviets cannot prevail. Loss of military prominence on the part of the Soviet is certain and East European dominance and domestic control enabled by such prominence will probably be jeopardized." Even in this magazine, I have stressed that the Soviet navy was undergoing attrition rather than expansion, and in May 1988 when the Soviet forces finally withdrew from Afghanistan, I felt, "Soviet domination of East Europe would last for only 10 or 15 more years." In 1988 I did not think in any way that the situation would evolve so fast that the Soviet Union would collapse in two or three years. Predictions are like passive sonar wherein even if the direction can be somehow detected, the distance is not discernible. Even if the remote cause (basic structure) is known beforehand, the "direct cause" (the genesis) often comprises an "odd incident" and it is impossible to foresee the latter element.

Notwithstanding, those concerned with national security must not allow interruption in their thought processes because of situational "ambiguities" or "variables." We are speaking of circumstances akin to operating a huge vessel which cannot be anchored amidst thick fog wherein we are not afforded the luxury of saying, "The situation ahead is not discernible." We have no choice but to listen carefully to fog horns and engine noises from other vessels to measure the water depth and endeavor to discern the situation ahead. In responding to instructions from Editor-in-Chief Kizu, I wish to make an effort to predict the unpredictable in a world where "one cannot see clearly beyond one inch." Space restrictions will make it difficult to render adequate quotations of reference data and examples, and it will probably be difficult to avoid the impression of being arbitrary; however, I hope to provide for an objective analysis.

"Can Russia recover?"

Russia is probably a case where the future is relatively clear. A shift to a market economy, the conversion of military industry to private-sector industry is not going smoothly, and turbulence is intensifying in terms of the economic, government, and fiscal situation. As a country which for some time has enjoyed huge agricultural production capabilities, it can assure itself adequate food supplies, and consumer supplies have improved in certain sectors; however, disparities between the poor and rich have expanded, living conditions for the masses have worsened from previous times, and public morale suffers significantly from crime, widespread corruption, deterioration in educational systems, and loss of pride.

The military was significantly affected by the collapse of the Soviet Union, while the population has declined in half from 280 million to 150 million, and the total military population has fallen from over 4 million to less than 1.5 million because of indiscriminate issuance of draft exemptions and evasion of military service. The inflation rate in Russia for the four years from the 1991 Soviet collapse through last year rose 725 fold, but military expenditures in four years from 1992 to 1995 increased only 49-fold and in real monetary-value terms fell to about one-fifteenth of previous levels. The ruble, which was worth about 300 yen 10 years ago, is worth about two sen now. The 1995 military budget of 46.58 trillion ruble fails to reach 1 trillion yen and is equal to about one-fifth of the Japanese defense budget of 4.7236 trillion yen, is less than the South Korean and Taiwan military budgets but is larger than that of China. Prices and labor costs are different and monetary values are subject to sudden changes, making international comparisons of national defense budgets meaningless (As an example, the yen-dollar exchange rates fluctuated drastically as much as 20 percent this year, but that did not mean that SDF combat capabilities rose and fell by 20 percent). However, military effectiveness cannot be maintained if budgets are reduced by one-fifteenth in four years. The Russian military face shortages in funding for food supplies and electric utilities. Reports circulating in Russia indicate, "Although 5.4 trillion rubles are needed for food supplies, this fiscal year's food-supply funding is a mere 1.7 trillion rubles."

Shortages in fuel and maintenance funding have caused drastic reductions in the operation of naval vessels and aircraft while the number of sightings of naval surface ships of the Russian Pacific Fleet visually confirmed by the MSDF last year was only eight compared to 141 in the peak year of 1987. Most of the Russian naval vessels face deterioration while moored in port. Reportedly, nuclear submarines are occasionally operated, but "deployments from port have been suspended because of the inability to deliver food supplies." A decision has been made to destroy Delta I and III submarines deployed at Petropavlovsk in Kamchatka, placing the naval base in a virtual close-down situation and translating into a loss of strategic value for the Sea of Okhotsk as well as the Kurile Islands. Fighter pilots are limited to less than 20 hours of yearly flight training, making it impossible to maintain flight proficiency.

Lack of training and shortages in numbers is the same in the Army, and in December of last year, Russia deployed troops to Chechnya in the Northern Caucasus where separatist independence movements were underway; however, faced difficulties in handling the Chechnyans who number only around 1 million. It took the Russians more than three months and 10,000 casualties to conquer the capital of Krasnoye; however, they were unable to gain control over President Jokhar Dudayev and his confederates, and therefore, concluded a peace treaty and withdrew most of their troops in August. The Russian military capabilities have weakened to the point where they are unable to punish domestic rebels.

There is little potential that the current Russian regime—which displays confusion and impotence to the degree it has lost any semblance of a government—will survive, and I believe there is a high possibility that we will witness the appearance of a right-wing despotic government led by the military who advocate the restoration of order. However, even if heavy industry can be operated under traditional Russian "iron discipline," the Russians will not be able to attain an information age which represents the second industrial revolution. The Soviet Union probably declined after the 1970's amidst an integrating world economy because it maintained a rigidly closed economic system and placed excessive emphasis on the military arms industry while furthering control over freedom of speech through information control including restricted ownership of typewriters, thus making themselves laggards of the information revolution. The majority of the Russian people will probably face more favorable conditions than the present through the recovery of discipline based on the reappearance of a despotic government, but that development will only serve to place Russia back on a course of decline.

Far East Russia faces especially dangerous times. It encompasses a population of only 8 million, and it was the qualitative superiority of the of the Russian military that enabled Russians to conquer and take over coastal regions from China in the Beijing Treaty of 1860; however, such superiority is in the process of quickly fading away. As many as 400,000 Chinese merchants have migrated into the coastal areas to assume control of the economy, and places such as Khabarovsk are being "transformed into Hong Kongs." If Russians, who become discontent with economic control by the Chinese, engage in an uprising, there could be the possibility that the Chinese military will intervene for the purpose of protecting the interests of Chinese settlements. The Chinese population in northeastern China (Manchuria) reaches 100 million. It will be interesting to see how Far East Russia will resist such pressures and penetration.

"Will a unified Korea become a threat to Japan?"

South Korea established diplomatic ties with the former Soviet Union in September 1990 and China followed suit in August 1992, placing the People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) in a position where it has lost the support of two major powers and has been confronted with an accelerating pattern of poverty.

On the other hand, the South Korean economy has grown in an orderly manner, reflecting a GNP of about 35 trillion yen or 17 times that of North Korea where GNP is estimated to have been below 2 trillion yen.

China-South Korea trade has grown from $4.4 billion in 1991 in the year prior to establishment of diplomacy to $12 billion, a rapid rate of expansion of three times in three years. North Korean trade with China in 1994 dropped by 30 percent over the prior year to a mere $600 million. Russia will no longer sell oil to North Korea unless payments are made in foreign currency. Petroleum imports into North Korea are estimated to have been 3.71 million tons primarily from the Soviet Union in 1989, but in 1994 they are estimated to have fallen drastically to one-fourth of 1989 levels including 830,000 tons from China through bartering and installment payments, and modest amounts from Russia and Iran. North Korea is hardly able to conduct major training exercises using large numbers of vehicles, fighter plane pilots are estimated to be undergoing less than 20 hours of yearly flight training, almost none of the MIG-29's (14) and MIG-23's (46) are air worthy, and combat capabilities have declined substantially.

Food shortages are especially severe and although 6.6 million tons of grains are needed to sustain a population of about 22 million, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations estimates that 1994 production of grains will be 4.12 million tons. North Korea had augmented supplies by importing from places like China, but China's economic expansion has led to increased consumption of meat by domestic consumers, leading to a shortage of feed grains and transforming China into a food importer of 6.4 million tons in the first half of 1995 and making it difficult for it to accommodate favorable prices and credit payments for foodstuffs destined for North Korea. The situation in North Korea was compounded by lack of adequate sunshine because of this summer's long rain falls and attendant floods. North Korea, which until recently had announced "bumper crops for this year" and which referred to food shortage reports as "Western media propaganda," has been placed in a position where it has no choice but to beg for food assistance from Japan, South Korea, and the United States. Even in Pyongyang, where food distribution is given highest of priority, rations have had a tendency to be interrupted and urban residents are being given permission to visit rural areas on food-purchasing excursions. Loss of capability by a socialist country to effect distribution of foodstuffs will lead to a decisive forfeiture of trust in government. According to exiles, people are no longer being reported to police for listening to South Korean media broadcasts. It seems to be a case where the police have difficulty in sustaining life and have no time to devote to tracking down people who listen to South Korean media broadcasts. North Korea is in no position to engage itself in nuclear or missile development. For the near term North Korea is receiving crude oil from the United States and has suspended operation of graphite experimental nuclear reactors in accordance with an agreement to freeze operation of such reactors with the provision that a light-water reactor would be constructed in the future with South Korean and Japanese funds, while a second test has not been executed for over two years on the 1,000-kilometer range "Nodon Number 1" missile after having been initially tested in May 1993. If development work is continuing, there should be some test firings. At least several tens of test firings must be performed before going into mass production because absent such test firings, there is no telling where the missiles might end up. It seems to be a case where shortages exist in both funding and technology.

The North Korean government faces circumstances which would not make it a mystery if it were to collapse at any time, but if it should collapse, South Korea will have to face unification regardless of its preferences. Certain sectors of South Korea have assumed a cautionary attitude toward unification because of the huge potential economic liability and social turbulence and believe that in the event of a North Korean government collapse, the dividing line should be closed, unification avoided, and that only economic assistance should be extended. However, such an event will bring confusion among the North Korean military, and the South Korean military will have to assume the mission of pushing refugees back from the dividing line. It will be conceivably difficult to maintain a closure of the dividing line over an extended period because relatives are divided between North and South, and any firing of weapons into unarmed fellow Koreans and attendant causalities would invite both domestic and international criticism.

If unification takes place, its economic impact will not parallel that of the German unification. Some of the differences are: 1) In the case of East and West Germany the population ratio was 1-to-4 (16.5 million versus 65 million), but North Korea has a population of 22 million versus South Korea's 45 million for a ratio of 1-to-2, meaning that two South Koreans must sustain one North Korean. 2) GNP per capita in East Germany before unification had exceeded $10,000 and passenger car ownership, albeit primarily jalopies, had reached one car per four individuals, making them more affluent than the situation in present-day South Korea where GNP per capita is about $8,000 and passenger car ownership has reached one car per 10 individuals. The poverty level in North Korea, which is on the brink of starvation, defies comparison. 3) West Germany prior to unification was the largest creditor nation and carried a net creditor status of $358.4 billion, but as of the end of last year, South Korea carried a net debtor status of $10.2 billion and has no fiscal elbowroom. Minimal estimates of unification costs call for 280 trillion won (about 36 trillion yen) exceeding the South Korean GNP while some estimates are three-fold of the minimal estimate. Further, there are inordinate differences between the North and South in the area of living standards, traditions, perceptions, and education, which could translate into inevitable social friction in terms of discrimination and resistance. Collapse of the North could subject South Korea to a fatal blow.

It is for those very reasons that South Korea has joined Japan in efforts to assist North Korea by extending food aid and agreeing to foot roughly three-fourths of the 400 billion yen cost of building a light-water reactor, thus providing North Korea with the wherewithal to survive longer than expected. On the other hand, the North Korean government's foundation has been weakened by economic difficulties and the inflow of international news, and there is more than minimal potential that a breakdown in the government could occur because of some untoward event. This is a case of information assessment wherein the direction is discernible, but the time element is unclear.

South Koreans harbor deep-rooted, strenuous anti-Japanese sentiments and there are some who feel that post-unification moves might be made to redirect its military capabilities at Japan. I hear that South Korean naval officers have publicly announced to U.S. military personnel that construction of at least nine—or 18 according to one story—209-class submarines (Changbogo class) visualize a war with Japan. However, initially, those submarines visualized the Robero-class submarines of North Korea, but existence of circumstances which indicate they are almost totally inoperable is believed to have caused the use of Japan as an excuse to obtain budgetary approval for construction of the South Korean submarines. If unification should become reality, South Korea will be forced to patrol 1,200 kilometers of borders facing China and Russia or five times its current border with North Korea, and it appears there are many sections where signs do not exist to identify international borders. That condition alone could become the basis for confrontations, but additionally just north of North Korea in the Northeastern border sections of China, there are more than 2 million Chinese residents who are ethnically rooted in Korea. Even if the per capita GNP for South Korea falls because of unification, it will still range around $5,000 or 10 times that of China, leaving the high possibility that ethnic Koreans of that region will desire a merger with a unified Korea. Further, many South Koreans say that several generations of Koreans occupied this region from the 4th generation of the birth of Christ. If conditions such as 1) a far-ranging, obscure border, 2) habitation of two sides of a border by the same ethnic group, and 3) historical territorial disputes combine to form a complex situation, there will be a need for a considerably mature national temperament and diplomatic skills underpinned by a spirit of agile compromise. It is doubtful that South Korea has those attributes. South Korea will lose economic flexibility because of unification, and as it faces an international border with China, it will probably lose the capability for maintaining any sort of confrontation with Japan. Rather, as far as Japan is concerned, it will face a need to maintain a delicate sense of distance so that it is not drawn into a China-Korea confrontation or obligated to assume excessive burdens in relation to the reconstruction of North Korea.

"Will China assume a posture of entrenchment?"

In my article titled "Examination of the Theory of Chinese Military Expansion" providing special coverage of the Chinese navy in the July 1995 issue of this magazine, I listed considerable data in contradicting the common theory alleging "expansion" of China's military capabilities by referring to recent-year reductions in the air force, submarine fleet, and army; that China's fiscal deficits are expanding; that growth in defense spending is barely keeping up with the growth in inflation; that spreading worship of capitalism among the Chinese military and commercialization of military activities are mind-boggling, and that signs of military disintegration exist amidst the trend towards an "aristocratic economy." Therefore, I wish to avoid any repetition of the foregoing in this article. The article published in the July edition provided an analysis of the present situation and a short-term outlook, but if any visualization of the strategic environment of East Asia in the 21st century is to consider the future of the most dominant element consisting of China, it must consider not only the near-term rise and fall of military capabilities, but also view the situation from a much wider perspective.

China's GNP has displayed favorable growth ranging in the two-digit rate for three consecutive years in terms of real GNP including 13.6 percent for 1992, 13.4 percent for 1993, and 11.8 percent for 1994. GNP in 1994 grossed $508.2 billion or one-ninth that of Japan (China has a population of 1.2 billion or 9.6 times that of Japan, resulting in a per capita GNP of just over $420 or one-eighty-sixth of that for Japan). However, China's 9th five-year program starting in 1996 reflects a goal of bringing its year 2000 gross domestic product (GDP) to 12.15 trillion won (currently, the won is valued at 13 yen, translating that goal into 158 trillion yen or one-third that of Japan today), and if that goal were to be met, it is unquestionably feasible that based on purchasing parity, China's GNP will exceed that of Japan because of lower prices in China. The foremost reason, which is an element expected to continue for the near term, is that investments from overseas are flooding into China because its labor rates are very low relative to its human resources capabilities.

However, China is plagued by many problems, such as a sharp increase in population (some estimates project a population of 1.7 billion by the year 2030), food shortages because of a decrease in arable land and water shortages (currently enjoys a self-sufficiency rate of 98 percent projected to decline by the end of the century to 91-93 percent), rampant tax evasion (National Affairs Institute's Growth Research Center's report estimates that tax evasion is practiced by 30 percent of nationalized enterprises, 60 percent of partnership companies, and 80 percent of privately owned enterprises with a gross estimate of 162.8 billion won or 3.4 trillion yen), deficits of nationalized enterprises (more than 40 percent of such firms last year), neglect of public education (fiscal expenditures for education run at 2.7 percent of GNP, does not even reach the 4-percent level of developing nations, and even public schools charge tuition), expansion in disparity between the rich and the poor (drifters called "mangliu" total 100 million), and regional governments neglect of central government's guidance and pursuit of independent development. Growth through foreign investments and technology transfer (involving industrialization without a technical basis) are subject to limitations.

Significant problems include government and low-ranking party corruption and extortion, opening of tax accounting offices by taxation agency employees and the refusal of taxation agencies to accept tax returns that are not handled by such tax accounting offices, refusal of banks to accept requests for withdrawals from individual accounts saying, "We are currently out of cash," with even foreigners experiencing the need to pay bribes to make withdrawals from their personal accounts. The military establish toll gates on highways and collect tolls, impose illegal assessments on farmers in regional areas, and fail to make payment for agricultural products delivered by farmers and divert proceeds into investments and speculation, thus providing a basis for many tales about irregularities and corruption reminiscent of the Qing Dynasty and the prewar Chinese bureaucrats. Presently, the living standards of the masses are improving on average and discontent is not widespread, but if food shortages should worsen or an economic recession occurs, there is a risk that a major uprising will take place similar to those which have occurred frequently in Chinese history. If corruption and irregularities are phenomena which occur during transitions from socialist systems to completely decontrolled market economies, there is the hope that they will diminish in the future; however, it is conceivable that the situation arose as the result of a rebirth in several thousand years of traditional authoritarian tyranny and corruption because of the removal of a socialist facade and that the problems are deep-rooted. However, even if civil war or an uprising of the masses takes place in China, the situation will differ from that of the prewar days when many Japanese settlers existed or individuals held interests in an area where they were not about to surrender. It will be a case, in many instances, where outsiders can merely abandon their losses and vacate their hotel rooms, meaning that even if unrest should arise in China, there will probably be few instances requiring military intervention. Even the outflow of refugees can be controlled by the lack of sufficient sea vessels, unlike flows of refugees of land-based routes. Illegal smuggling ships can be controlled by P-3C patrols, including monitoring of all ships leaving Chinese ports through computer systems on a 24-hour basis and boarding of such ships violating domestic waters of other nations and seizing any ships engaged in illegal movement of refugees.

The Spratly Islands have little relationship to the security of Japan. Even if a dispute were to arise and navigation in the vicinity of the Spratly Islands should become hazardous, oil tankers can travel from the Indian Ocean through the Lomboc Straits and east of the Philippines, causing transportation cost increases of about 20 sen per liter. Reportedly, oil can be found in the Spratly Islands; however, at sea depths reaching 2,000 meters and recovery of petroleum resources is either impossible or economically not feasible based on today's technology. Eventually, nations concerned will awaken to these facts and the possibility is strong that the Spratly Islands will be relegated to the status consigned to hundreds of minor territorial disputes existing throughout the world.

A far greater problem is the potential independence of Taiwan. As I stated in my article in the July issue of this magazine, modernization of Taiwanese naval, air, and army forces in a nation endowed with abundant fiscal resources is spectacular and cannot be compared to the slow modernization pace of the Chinese military. Even in the past, the Taiwanese naval and air force were superior to that of China, enabling Taiwan to retain sea and air control over the Taiwan straits and protect the Quemoy and Matsu Islands located close to the Chinese continent, while China's military capabilities peaked during the 1970's and have declined steadily since, and Taiwan's military capabilities have been dramatically modernized, causing an increasingly wider gap between the two. Further, within Taiwan where 87 percent of the residents are natives, Taiwanese are widening their influence as well as undergoing an expansion in the number of residents favoring independence. Taiwanese are mostly of Chinese ethnicity, but characteristically make a strong distinction between themselves and mainland Chinese by speaking of the postwar departure of the Japanese and assumption of control by mainland Chinese as the "departure of dogs and the arrival of pigs," and commemorating 27 January of this year as the date on which China was defeated in the Sino-Japanese War and as the 100th anniversary of the Shimonoseki Treaty establishing the independence of Korea from China and cession of Taiwan to Japan, with rallies held in Taipei. Even President Li Deng-hui is a Taiwanese who studied at the Agricultural Department of Kyoto

University and was drafted into the Japanese Army as a first lieutenant (artillery corps platoon leader).

March of next year will witness the first direct election of the president, but China is seeking to obstruct his reelection because it sees President Li seeking membership of Taiwan in the United Nations separate from China and establishment of Taiwan as an independent nation by the year 2000 in the event he is reelected. From 21 to 26 July, China fired ballistic missiles into the seas just 140 kilometers north of Taiwan, held naval exercises north of Taiwan from 15 to 25 August, and conducted nuclear tests on 17 August during those exercises. Such conduct represented naked threats wherein China seemed to fire dummy rounds from a pistol in its right hand, and toy with live rounds in its left hand while it said, "Are Taiwanese really serious about participating in the coming elections?" Such behavior have had contrary reactions from the Taiwanese who display renewed determination in opposition to China and increasing support for President Li.

Taiwan's Military Modernization Plan envisions completion of program objectives by 1998 and combat deployment of advanced equipment by the year 2000 currently in the process of being procured such as 150 F-16's, 60 Mirage-2000, 130 domestically produced Jingguo aircraft, four to eight E2C, eight Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigates, 16 La Fayette-class frigate, 50 AII IW armored helicopters, and Patriot Anti-Air Missiles. Taiwan will be able to pursue independence policies with a sense of security. If a nation undergoes democratization in the Taiwanese fashion, achieves a per capita GNP exceeding $10,000 and establishes independence as a region with incomes reaching more than 20 times that of mainland China, there is the possibility that the coastal provinces of the southern Asian continent will follow suit, making future relations between China and Taiwan worthy of detailed monitoring. However, if a Japan takes action to conspicuously support the independence of a pro-Japanese Taiwan which was formerly a Japanese territory, the result will be a misunderstanding by numerous nations that Japan harbors territorial ambitions and in the validation of Chinese propaganda that "President Li Deng-hui is basically a Japanese. He wants to make Taiwan a territory of Japan." Of utmost consideration is that military intervention in a dispute between China and Taiwan would be highly inadvisable.

The U.S. Congressional Budget Office announced in January 1995 that the country then held an accumulated deficit of $4.5 trillion equal to over 70 percent of its GNP and that fiscal deficits would increase sharply in the 21st century. On the other hand, the U.S. government in August issued an optimistic forecast of its economic and fiscal outlook saying, "The year 2004 will witness the realization of a single-year fiscal surplus." The latter projection cannot necessarily be treated with confidence in that the U.S. government has always issued optimistic projections only to be followed by worsening fiscal situations. The extent to which U.S. military capabilities will be maintained in the East Asian region will probably be determined primarily on the basis of its fiscal situation. Even in the case of Japan the government bond balance outstanding as of the end of this fiscal year will reach 216 trillion yen or 43 percent of the projected GNP of 497 trillion yen for Fiscal Year 1995. Aging of the population and sharp future increases in medical and welfare costs will make it difficult to increase budgets in support of U.S. military units.

By the year 2030 in Japan individuals aged 65 and over will increase sharply from the current 14.5 percent to 26 percent of the overall population, while the 18-year-old male population will decrease from the current 898,000 to 750,000. Enhancing military capabilities will become difficult in terms of both fiscal and human resource aspects. However, fortunately, a look at the Northeast Asian picture reveals instability and many signs of drastic changes, but they do not indicate any expansion of a military threat against Japan. In fact, generally speaking, termination of Cold-War structures is a phenomenon which appears to be surfacing in the east coastal regions of the Eurasian continent. Even if the collapse of North Korea, turbulence in China, a dispute between China and Russia in the coastal regions, or the independence of Taiwan should occur, there is little risk that Japan will have to involve itself in any full-scale military action. At most, it will probably become involved in the rescue of Japanese citizens or the monitoring of illegal immigrant smuggling. There are more than a few potential causes of confrontation with the United States concerning interests and sentiments, but as long as Japan is dependent on natural resource imports of over 700 million tons, it has very little potential to prevail in an arms race or any sort of confrontation policies. Japan has no choice but to entrust the United States with the role of world leader and for itself to serve in the role of a chamber of commerce and industry.

Japan: Two Incidents of 'Foul Odors' in Tokyo Subway Reported

OW0704134596 Tokyo KYODO in English 1332 GMT 7 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO — In two separate incidents foul odors were reported inside Tokyo's subway network Sunday [7 April], with one of the incidents leading to more than a dozen people being treated for sore eyes and other complaints, police and firefighters said.

The incidents briefly scared the capital, where last year's sarin nerve gas attack on the subway system has not been forgotten, as some 22,000 police began to spread a security net to guard against possible disturbances ahead of U.S. President Bill Clinton's April 16-18 state visit.

In the first incident, an elderly woman complained of a bad smell and sickness at Aoyama 1-Chome station on the Hanzomon subway line in Tokyo's Minato ward but a police search failed to uncover any suspicious material.

Later in the day, about 15 passers-by received treatment after complaining of pain in the underground passageway of Shinjuku station on the Marunouchi subway line.

There were unconfirmed reports that some youths sprayed aerosols there.

The incidents temporarily led to scores of police being mobilized and police helicopters swirling around the imperial palace.

North Korea

DPRK: Japan's Support for U.S. in Korean 'Emergency' Decried

SK0704072696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0708 GMT 7 Apr 96

["Japan's Move For Supporting U.S. Troops in 'Emergency' on Korean Peninsula" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 7 (KCNA) — The Japanese SANKEI SHIMBUN April 3 disclosed the fact that the "Security Research Council" of the Liberal Democratic Party on April 2 worked out an examination agenda envisaging the support steps for the U.S. troops, which includes 9 items allegedly necessary urgently to cope with an "emergency" on the Korean peninsula.

The examination agenda envisages practical steps, including the utilization of civil airports and harbours in Japan by the U.S. warplanes and warships in case of "emergency" as well as the beforehand selection of airports, by revising the status of Japan- stationed U.S. forces agreement, the paper said.

It also envisages the laying of legal foundations guaranteeing more activation of Japan's assistance to the U.S. forces, including the offer of oil and other military supplies, support to transportation in Japan and repair of warplanes and warships.

It includes the question of "rescue of Japanese" in the "event of contingency" on the Korean peninsula for the purpose of overseas dispatch of forces to the Korean peninsula siding with the U.S. forces in their war moves, the paper said.

This illustrates that the Japanese reactionaries are moving to leave the territory of Japan as a whole as a sortie, transit and supply bases of the U.S. troops in case of the outbreak of an aggression war by the United States and to take part directly in the aggression war against the DPRK under such deceptive pretext as "rescue of Japanese".

DPRK: U.S. Conservatives Denounced For Urging 'Stronger Policy'

SK0504143696 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1224 GMT 5 Apr 96

[Commentary from 5 April NODONG SINMUN: "They Should Think About the Consequences"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the United States, there are forces that are trying to drive the situation to an extreme, being blind due to partisan interests and unable to see great things. The most vicious group among is the conservative forces within the Republican Party. According to reports, they have stressed the need to take a stronger policy [to kanggyonghan chongchaek] toward us, and are talking about the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework and North-South dialogue. This reflects their shortsighted position and tells us they view only one side of the coin.

As has been known, a very grave situation [maeu omjunghan chongse] has been created on the Korean peninsula due to the South Korean puppets' war provocation maneuvers. Now, war on the Korean peninsula is considered a realistic question for today, and not a simulated matter for tomorrow [ijewaso choson pandoesonun chonjaeng iranungosi kasangjogin naeirui munjega anira onurui hyonsilchogin munjero chegidoego itta].

This is linked to the inspiration by the U.S. ultrarightist forces to create a situation favorable to them in the presidential election by arousing a hornets' nest on the Korean peninsula. Far from easing tensions, the conservative forces within the Republican Party always drive the situation on the Korean peninsula in a direction that aggravates it. These days, they are doing so even more severely while adhering to immediate partisan interests.

The U.S. conservative forces are talking about a stronger policy [to kanggyonghan chongchaek] under the current acute situation [kinbakhan chongse] in which it has become clear that the South Korean puppets have made up their minds to bring about a real war [silchonul chakchong haettanunkot], and the only thing that remains is the physical gunfire. This is something quite dangerous.

We have made clear that we cannot help but take countermeasures to cope with the prevailing situation [urinun imi chosongdoen sataee taechohan taeungchaegul kangguhaji anulsu optanunte taehayo myongbaekhi hayotta]. We wonder if the conservative forces of the U.S. Republican Party are running so wild after having given thought to this. The DPRK and the United States are in hostile relations [kyojon kwangye]. Accordingly, our countermeasures [taeungchaek] cannot be regarded as those confined only to the South Korean puppets.

As for the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework, it is not a present that someone grants to another. We do not care whether or not the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework is implemented. However, our position is that if DPRK-U.S. relations improve even a little through the implementation of the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework, this will not be bad but good for both the DPRK and the United States.

Thus, we hope that acts which are an obstacle to implementing the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework will not appear.

Regarding the North-South dialogue, as we have repeatedly emphasized there must be a counterpart for dialogue. However, there is no such counterpart. The traitor Kim Yong-sam, who is a heinous splittist, a king of fascists, a nation-seller, an immoral scoundrel who does not know human morality, and a ringleader of corruption and irregularities, cannot be the counterpart for dialogue with us in any case.

The conservative forces within the Republican Party who are talking about North-South dialogue certainly do not welcome the implementation of the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework.

Currently, there are a series of pending issues between the DPRK and the United States that are necessary to improving relations. These are desperately needed by the United States.

If the conservative forces within the U.S. Republican Party talk about some kind of strong measures and continue to instigate the South Korean puppets toward a North-South confrontation, the situation on the Korean peninsula, which is already very tense, will spread into a more unpredictable dangerous situation [touk yechukhalsuomnun wihomhan chigyonguro ponjojilgosimyo], and this will also affect the United States.

If they continue to insist on North-South dialogue and apply the brakes, the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework will only remain as a document indicting the shamefulness of the United States. If this is the case, DPRK-U.S. relations will become all the more tense and acute, and it is clear that pending issues will not be discussed, and that the U.S. image and trust to the outside will be greatly lost.

Ultimately, due to the acts of the conservative forces within the U.S. Republican Party, the ones who will suffer are not us but only the United States.

If they continue to drive the situation in a way that they know one but not two, nothing can be solved [hanaman algo turun morundanun siguro kyesok moldaganun amugotto haegyolhalsuopta]. The conservative forces within the U.S. Republican Party must rid themselves of their partisan position regarding the affects their words and deeds will bring about, and must think from the interest of all of the United States.

DPRK: U.S. Building 'Super Warships' 'Aimed' at DPRK

SK0704072896 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0710 GMT 7 Apr 96

["U.S. Builds Super Warships Aimed at Korean Peninsula" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 7 (KCNA) — The American paper CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR April 5 reported that the United States is building battleships largest ever in their kind.

The warships will be deployed in the Pacific region including the Korean peninsula, the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean. Unlike carrier, they will stay for a long time in the sea off "regions of possible disputes to deter them", the paper said.

The paper noted the United States is considering the "crisis" on the Korean peninsula in building and deploying the warships.

The fact shows that the U.S. warhawks are putting more spurs to reinforcement and modernization of the naval forces after the Cold War under the deceptive signboard of "deterrent of disputes", in order to carry on war moves aimed at the Korean peninsula more frantically.

DPRK: U.S. Determined To Build 'Super-Large Combat Vessels'

SK0704093696 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report, the U.S. bellicose class is heated up in building super-large combat vessels [chodaehyong chonham] aimed at strengthening their war adventure on the Korean peninsula.

The 5 April edition of the American paper THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR reported that the United States is building the largest combat vessel which it has ever built up until now. THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR revealed that this super-large combat vessel [chodaehyong chonham], which is called the ordnance depot of the sea [padaui pyonggichang], is loaded with 500 cruise missiles [sunhang misail] and various medium and long-range strategic missiles [chollyak misail], and is charged with the duty of striking the land from at sea.

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR also revealed that the U.S. administration ordered four to six such combat vessels be built by the year 2000 so they can be deployed for actual warfare, approving $520 million as the initial expense for their construction.

The paper revealed that the region which the super-large combat vessels [chodaehyong chonham] will be deployed in will be in the Pacific region, including the Korean peninsula, the Indian Ocean, and the Mediterranean. Unlike aircraft carriers, this combat vessel will stay at sea for long periods of time off regions of possible dispute in order to deter them.

The paper exposed that the United States considered the crisis on the Korean peninsula in building and deploying these combat vessels.

The fact shows that the U.S. bellicose forces are putting more spurs to reinforce and modernize their naval forces after the end of the Cold War, doing so under the deceptive signboard of deterring disputes in order to all the more frantically carry on their war maneuvers aimed at the Korean peninsula.

DPRK: NODONG SINMUN Warns ROK Against 'War Hysterics'

SK0804054996 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0541 GMT 8 Apr 96

["S. Korean Puppets Must Act With Discretion" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 8 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppets must know that if they regard the North's warning as an empty talk and display war hysterics, they will face an irrevocable disaster. Repentence always comes late.

NODONG SINMUN stresses this in a signed commentary today.

The South Korean puppets are acting rashly without brooding over the seriousness of the current situation, the commentary notes, and continues:

They charged the North with the provocation of the last Korean war. They called an "Emergency Security Meeting" and issued a "statement" blustering that the North "will have to pay" for a possible "attack."

As seen above, they are running wild to do harm to the North in collusion with outside forces like a new-born puppy knowing no fear of a tiger, far from pondering over the warning from the North.

It goes without saying that their reckless war preparations are manipulated by the bellicose quarters of the United States.

The Korean peninsula is in the worst situation due to the dangerous military activities of South Korea that can be seen on the eve of war. The situation compelled the North to take a self- defensive measure.

The blame for this should be put on those who have destroyed the order in the Demilitarized Zone in wanton violation of the Armistice Agreement.

It is our unshakable position and principle to make no concession in the matters relating to our sovereignty and dignity. We, too, have the right to choose.

The South Korean puppets had better act with discretion.

DPRK: ROK's Kim Yong-sam's Visit to Front Denounced

SK0604151296 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1222 GMT 6 Apr 96

[Commentary by Yun Pyong-son: "Rash Act To Arouse the Hornet's Nest of War"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a time when a tense situation has been created on the Korean peninsula in which war may break out at any moment [choson pandoe onje chonjaengi tojilchi morul kinbakhan chongsega chosong toego innun ttaee], the traitor Kim Yong-sam once again carried out a rash act of instilling war fever.

On 4 April, the traitor Kim Yong-sam appeared at a frontline unit of the puppet army in the central sector of the front and inspected the actual war capacity of the puppet army, babbling that the army must be fully alert and prepared, preposterously raising an outcry about us.

The traitor Kim Yong-sam wandered around the front areas, where enormous arms of the North and South Korea are deployed, inspecting the war preparedness and the like in a hurried manner. This is a deliberate rash act aimed at arousing the hornets' nest of war, and plainly shows how dangerous the phase of the puppets' war maneuvers for northward invasion has become.

A grave situation strained to the breaking point [ilchok chukparui omjunghan chongse] prevails on the Korean peninsula. As everyone knows, the bellicose Kim Yong-sam group, which has accelerated preparations for war with a constant arms buildup and war exercises, has deployed the puppet army units near the frontline and allowed the entire puppet armed forces to assume a combat posture so as to mobilize them for war at any time. The U.S. imperialist occupation forces in South Korea are also on the alert.

The reality, in which large war exercises are being conducted daily to realize an adventurous plan for a war of northward invasion which has already been established [imi mohomjogin pukchim chonjaeng kyehoegi sewojyo ikko kugosul silchone omgigiwihan taegyumo chonjaeng yonsupturi maeil kachi porojigo innun hyonsil], shows that the Kim Yong-sam ring has completed all preparations for the war of northward invasion.

Under the situation where the puppets openly say that issues between South and North Korea can be resolved only by military force, and where in the southern area of the Demilitarized Zone the Military Demarcation Line has turned into an attack position for northward invasion, the danger of war on the Korean peninsula has become even more realistic [choson pandoesoui chonjaeng wihomun touk to hyonsilchogin kosuro toego issumnida].

The trigger of war provocation for a northward invasion has already been pulled [pukchim chonjaeng tobarui kyokpalginun imi tanggyojin sangtaee issumnida]. Under this situation, the traitor Kim Yong-sam visited the puppet army units on the frontline to inspect their war preparedness and to stir up the war mood. This is a criminal act aimed at pulling the trigger of war provocation.

The reason the puppets headed by Kim Yong-sam adhere to the war adventure is simple. The Kim Yong-sam ring is now experiencing the worst crisis since it assumed power. The Kim Yong-sam clique has been driven into a deadlock because of political chaos, disorder, the repeated failures of its internal and external policies, difficulties in the people's living, and the growing antigovernment struggle caused by all these problems.

The puppet clique led by Kim Yong-sam, who have been denounced by the people ever since his true nature as an accomplice in the traitor No Tae-u's secret fund scandal was revealed, committed the heinous atrocity of killing a student engaged in a peaceful demonstration, thus being cursed and denounced by people at home and abroad. The Kim Yong-sam ring stands on the brink where it can no longer maintain power.

War is a typical means that fascist dictators used to employ whenever they faced a serious crisis. Without a policy to overcome the crisis, the Kim Yong-sam ring is trying to break through the serious deadlock by stirring up a hornets' nest of war, driving the situation into a more dangerous phase. This is why the traitor Kim Yong-sam, who is recklessly running wild while being unsteady with war fever, wandered about the puppet army units on the frontline and spurred up confrontation and war.

However, war provocations are not the way out of the crisis. If the Kim Yong-sam ring provokes a war like a new-born puppy that is too young to be afraid of a tiger, our people and People's Army will mercilessly smash the aggressors with strong defensive measures so as to eradicate even their seeds [kangnyokhan chawijok chochiro chimnyakchadurul ssido namji anke mujabihage chitmunggyo porilgosimnida]. The puppet clique should clearly be aware of the revolutionary spirit of our people who will never forgive the provokers, and should not recklessly run wild.

DPRK: More Reaction to Kim Yong-sam Visit to Frontline

SK0604065696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0338 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA) — The traitor Kim Yong-sam reportedly visited a frontline unit of the puppet army in the central sector of the front on April 4 to "inspect" the war capacity of the puppet army, groundlessly slandered the North and urged the army to "take full alertness and preparedness."

This came after he recently made radical remarks that "the inter-Korean problem can be solved only through military strength."

His acts and words are motivated by a sinister intention to drive the situation on the Korean peninsula to a more dangerous phase and unleash a war as a way out of the political crisis, "government" crisis.

War is what the fascist dictators seek as a last-ditch effort whenever they face a crisis.

It is self-evident that as there is no way out, the Kim Yong-sam group, bereft of reason, will recklessly unleash a war against the North.

They are about to trigger a war against the North.

However, they must act with discretion, clearly seeing that war cannot save their "government" crisis.

Our people and People's Army will annihilate them with a strong self-defensive measure if they dare provoke a war.

DPRK: ROK's Kim Yong-sam Said Having 'Hysterical Fit'

SK0604080696 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The traitor Kim Yong-sam is having a hysterical fit to provoke a war by aggravating all the more the tense situation on the Korean peninsula.

According to a report, the traitor Kim Yong-sam visited a frontline unit of the puppet army in the central sector of the front yesterday, and inspected the actual war capacity of the puppet army. In addition, by preposterously finding fault with us, he made violent bellicose remarks by saying the army must be fully alert and prepared.

The traitor's provocative and imprudent act, in which he blew the crazy trumpet of war while wandering about the frontline region where the enormous armed forces of the North and South are acutely standing face to face, clearly shows how much the puppets are running crazily amok to provide a climate to invade the North.

DPRK: Panmunjom Measure Called 'Legitimate Countermeasure'

SK0604044896 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0435 GMT 6 Apr 96

["Legitimate Countermeasure" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA) — MINJU CHOSON today describes the immediate self-defensive measure of the Panmunjom mission of the Korean People's Army as a legitimate countermeasure to cope with the situation on the Korean peninsula.

The self-defensive measure came as the status of the Demilitarized Zone could not be maintained.

The news analyst says:

The Kim Yong-sam group have ceaselessly staged military exercises against the North and turned the southern portion of the Demilitarized Zone along the Military Demarcation Line into a militarized zone and a starting position for invasion of the North.

It is self-evident that our people and People's Army cannot remain an onlooker to the situation that can be seen on the eve of war and cannot but take a countermeasure.

The countermeasure is only too legitimate now that we can no longer unilaterally observe the provisions of the Korean Armistice Agreement relating to the Demilitarized Zone along the Military Demarcation Line.

The revolutionary habit of our people and People's Army is to answer fire with fire and punish the provocateurs thousandfold.

We do not make an empty talk but carry into practice what we have said once.

If the South Korean puppets ignite a war, we will deal an annihilating blow at them.

DPRK: ROK's 'War Provocation Maneuvers' Denounced

SK0504133796 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0854 GMT 3 Apr 96

[Unattributed talk: "The South Koran Puppets' War Madness Has Reached Its Extreme"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kim Yong-sam ring is now indiscreetly running wild, trying to find a way out of its current and ever- increasing ruling crisis by further strengthening its anti-Republic confrontation and adventurous war provocation maneuvers.

As has been reported, during a dinner meeting with rabble from the Disabled Veterans Association and the National Congress of Unification, which are government-patronized organizations, the traitor Kim Yong-sam uttered powder-reeking, bellicose remarks while clamoring about the nonexistent forward deployment of our armed forces and the threat from the North. Not only this, the traitor Kim Yong-sam also appeared at the graduation ceremonies of the military academies of the puppet Army, Navy, and Air Force, viciously slandering our system while there. Thus, he blew the bugle of instigating a war.

The traitor Kim Yong-sam, under the wicked aim to oppose the conclusion of a tentative agreement between the DPRK and the United States and to establish an anti-Republic cooperation system, sent the puppet foreign minister to the United States and many other countries in a bid to have him carry out a beggarly diplomacy and to concoct plots against us. This clearly proves that the Kim Yong-sam ring is attempting to persistently trigger a war against our Republic using the strength of outside forces.

The Kim Yong-sam bellicose group, which has made it an established fact to provoke a war of northward invasion, is frantically waging various types of large military exercises in the air, on the ground, and in the sea in an attempt to put its criminal, sinister schemes into practice.

As has been reported, on 22 March the South Korean puppets waged a provocative war exercise in Seoul, called a joint civilian- government-army exercise, by mobilizing not only the armed forces of the puppet Army, but also the government's administrative officials and citizens.

On 28 March, the South Korean puppets also frantically waged a large exercise, called the Hoguk-96 exercise, in the skies over Kyonggi Province and Kangwon Province of South Korea, and over the east and west coastal areas, mobilizing massive armed forces, including two corps from the puppet Army and units from the puppet Navy and Air Force.

The U.S. imperialists and bellicose elements who are frantically running wild for an anticommunist confrontation have more viciously perpetrated their aerial war exercises for a northward invasion and their acts of aerial espionage. The espionage activities that the U.S. imperialists committed against us during March, mobilizing not only early warning aircraft and patrol aircraft from their overseas bases, but also high-altitude strategic reconnaissance aircraft, tactical reconnaissance aircraft, and electronic warfare helicopters deployed in South Korea, number as many as 110.

There is no guarantee that these war commotions, which have been waged everyday in South Korea, a country which has been turned into a nuclear armory, the largest in the Far East, will not be expanded into an actual war for northward invasion. This is why a tense situation is being created on the Korean peninsula in which a war may break out at any time.

In fact, the puppets have pulled the trigger of war of northward invasion. [sasilsang koiroidurui pukchim chonjaengui kyokpalginun tanggyojin sangtaee issomnida]

The Kim Yong-sam ring is frantically running wild in its criminal maneuvers to trigger an internecine war by viciously challenging the nation's aspirations and desires for peace and peaceful reunification. Thus, it has vividly revealed its dirty colors as the nuclear war servant of outside forces who never pays attention to the destiny of the country and the nation.

It is because of our sincere and patient peace-loving policy and self-restraint that peace has been preserved on the Korean peninsula. If war breaks out in our country, which is not a big country, the North and South alike will suffer an enormous disaster, and great damage will be imposed on other countries, including the United States and Japan.

We are watching the reckless military actions of the South Korean puppets with great vigilance. It is the revolutionary disposition of our people and Army to fight with fire and to punish the provokers a thousandfold.

Those who provoke first will receive a thunderbolt. We will thoroughly calculate the crimes of the Kim Yong-sam bellicose group, which is gravely threatening the country's peace and the nation's well-being with reckless war commotions. At the same time, we will make the Kim Yong-sam group pay dearly for it.

Those forces who are chiming in with the Kim Yong-sam ring's allegation about the North's military threat should know that if a war is ignited on the Korean peninsula, they will not be safe and cannot escape responsibility for it.

DPRK: Young Pyongyangites Volunteer To Enlist in People's Army

SK0704091496 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0828 GMT 7 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 7 (KCNA) — A meeting of young people in Pyongyang to volunteer to enlist the Korean People's Army [KPA] was held in front of the Monument to the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War today.

At the meeting, Chang Yong-chol, first secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the Kim Il-song Socialist Youth League, read the March 29 press statement issued by the First Vice-Minister of the People's Armed Forces.

Young people of various strata in their speeches earnestly volunteered to enlist the KPA, voicing their determination to become rifles and bombs defending the supreme headquarters of the Korean revolution, headed by the respected General Kim Chong-il, at the cost of life and thoroughly annihilate the aggressors and uproot the source of war on this land.

The participants in the meeting signed a petition for enlistment.

DPRK: Youth in Pyongyang Volunteer To Join Army, Rural Community

SK0704120496 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Youth and students across the country keep volunteering to advance to guard posts to defend the fatherland or to difficult and demanding sectors of socialist construction, all with the hope and ambition to glorify their young lives by doing worthwhile things for the party, the leader, the fatherland, and the people. Tens of thousands of students and youth from

Pyongyang alone have volunteered to enlist in the People's Army since the beginning of this year.

At a time when traditional virtues are displayed by young vanguards even more highly as days go by, a speech meeting of graduates of senior middle schools in Pyongyang was held at the open-air theater of Moranbong Youth Park. Functionaries of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the Kim Il-song Socialist Youth League, teachers and students of senior middle schools in Pyongyang, and working people from all walks of life and students from the city participated in the speech meeting along with the graduates.

At the meeting, graduates Kim Myong-song from Pyongyang Songhan Senior Middle School, Ko Hyok-chol from Pyongyang Songbuk Senior Middle School, Yi Myong-chol from Pyongyang Kaesong Senior Middle School, Kwon In-sil from Pyongyang Chungsin Senior Middle School, Kye Mi-yong from Pyongyang Saenal Senior Middle School, Kim Chong- sim from Pyongyang Yongguk Senior Middle School, and Kim Chol-kyun from Pyongyang Yongung Senior Middle School expressed their fervent resolution with the delight and ardor of their youth.

Amid the skyscraping revolutionary zeal and spirit of the enthusiastic youth, Pak Chun-kuk, a sixth-year student of Class 1 of Pyongyang Ongnyu Senior Middle School, and all his classmates rushed to the stage and expressed their impressions of the sublime appearance of the respected and beloved general who has been giving on-the-spot guidance to frontline units in succession in recent days. They pledged to glorify their youth at the outposts of Height 351, which bears the immortal army-building achievements of the respected and beloved general, and sonorously sang together the poem of the hero Yi Su-pok.

Old veteran Kim Hyon-tae; Kang Sung-chin and Kim Un-yon, college students discharged from service; and disabled veteran U Yong-nam made congratulatory speeches. They stressed that nothing is more honored than devoting one's youth to defending the party, the leader, the fatherland, and the people, and asked the graduates to fulfill their duties at their new sentry posts as the younger generation that grew in the bosom of the party.

Many graduates—including Hwang Kang-nim from Pyongyang Yongchon Senior Middle School, Pae Myong-sam from Pyongyang Yonmot Senior Middle School, Son Yong-ok from Pyongyang Sonmyong Senior Middle School, Kim Chun-hui from Pyongyang Pulgunbyol Senior Middle School, and Yi Chin-hyok from Pyongyang Chongpyong Senior Middle School— also ran to the stage one by one to express their firm determination to display their honor as young vanguards at any sentry post where the party sends them. They voluntarily appealed to go to coal mines and rural areas, difficult and arduous sectors of socialist construction.

At the speech meeting, many other graduates recited their own poems expressing their great ambition and dream for the future, and expressed their will to vigorously struggle for the more glorious future of the fatherland.

The participants of the meeting loudly called the slogan of faith that urges youth to devote their lives to the fight for the great leader [yongdoja] General Kim Chong-il and to become rifles and guns to death-defyingly protect the respected and beloved general. They also sang together the song "Let Us Uphold Our Supreme Commander," vigorously showing the true appearance of the young vanguards of the new generation.

DPRK: Youth Across Country 'Volunteering' To Join Army

SK0804111196 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1006 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 8 (KCNA) — Young people across the country are volunteering to join the Korean People's Army [KPA] with a firm determination to creditably defend the gains of the revolution against the aggressors' new war moves.

A meeting of young Pyongyangites volunteering to join the KPA was held on April 7 on the Plaza of the Monument to the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War.

The March 29 press statement released by the first vice-minister of the people's armed forces was read out at the meeting, followed by speeches of representatives of working youth, students and graduates of senior middle school.

The speakers said that prevailing in Korea is the touch-and-go situation in which a new war may break out since the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have made guns ready for firing at the northern half of Korea.

They stressed that at the time when an acute confrontation with the enemies is in a pressing-danger, they will join the Army of the respected general Kim Chong-il, an invincible ever-victorious Army, to mercilessly annihilate the enemies and wreak their pent-up grudge and resentment and reunify the country.

They said that as they are led by General Kim Chong-il, an unrivalled ironwilled brilliant commander, they are not afraid of any strong enemy and will win in any war without fail.

They took a solemn pledge to hold General Kim Chong-il in a marshal uniform in high esteem in the Plaza of Reunification, as the fatherly leader Comrade Kim Il-song had wished so earnestly in his lifetime.

A representative of war veterans, in his speech, congratulated the youth and students who ardently volunteered to join the KPA and expressed the conviction that they will defeat any formidable enemy at a stroke and realize the cause of national reunification on any account under the leadership of General Kim Chong-il.

Young people of various strata and students signed a petition at the meeting.

During the meeting, the participants in the meeting loudly shouted: "Let us defend the respected Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il with arms!," "Let us become the Army of the respected Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il!," "Let us hold the respected General Kim Chong-il in high esteem in the Plaza of Reunification!" and other slogans.

DPRK Papers Support 'Struggles' of ROK Students, People

SK0604051596 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 6 Apr 96

["Struggle of S. Korean Students and People Supported" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA) — Newspapers here today express support for the South Korean students and people daily waging vigorous struggles with the surging indignation at the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique, who have mercilessly murdered student No Su-sok.

This struggle is a manifestation of their unshakable will to decisively fight to the last against the Kim Yong-sam group, who have reduced South Korea to a peerless theatre of fascist rowdyism, a grave of democracy and civil rights, and a veritable hell, the news analyst of NODONG SINMUN says, and goes on:

On one hand those responsible for the Kwangju massacre are saved from being punished through pseudo-trials, and on the other hand students calling for independence, democracy and reunification are mercilessly murdered. This is the real appearance of politics by the "civilian"-veiled Kim Yong-sam group.

The Kim Yong-sam group are a group of heinous fascist villains and murderers who team up with Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u, Kwangju murderers and military gangsters, but can never live under the same sky with students and people in South Korea.

Driven into a desperate position and frightened at the strong anti-"government" struggle of students and people, the group will undoubtedly brandish their fascist bayonet more recklessly.

The South Korean students and people should heighten their vigilance at this and wage more concerted and vigorous struggle so as to bring down a sledge hammer of destruction on the fascist and corrupt Kim Yong-sam group.

MINJU CHOSON says that the traitor Kim Yong-sam must admit his crimes and step down as demanded by the people, rather than run recklessly.

DPRK: 10,000 ROK Students Stage 'All-Night Strike'

SK0604051796 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0445 GMT 6 Apr 96

["All-Night Strike of S. Korean Students" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA) — An estimated 10,000 students in Seoul held an all-night strike following a ceremony of bidding the last homage to their fellow student, No Su-sok, killed by the fascist clique, at Yonsei university on Thursday, a radio report from Seoul said.

They were demanding an official apology of the traitor Kim Yong- sam and the punishment of those responsible for the death of the student, while keeping his remains in the university.

They decided to postpone for an indefinite period the funeral to be held in Kwangju and staged a demonstration before launching out on the all-night strike.

In another development, the Seoul District Federation of University Student Councils warned that in case the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique fail to apologize for the student's death and punish the chief culprits, students will boycott schools and hold large- scale protests on April 10, the day before the "general elections."

DPRK: More on Demonstration of South Korean Students

SK0804040996 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0342 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 8 (KCNA) — Some 1,200 students in Seoul held a memorial service for the late student No Su-sok before staging a demonstration condemning the murderers on Sunday, according to a radio report from Seoul.

They strongly demanded a clarification of the cause of his death and punishment of the murderers who beat him to death during their crackdown.

DPRK: Japan's 'Ambition' to Reinvade Korea Alleged

SK0604131496 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report, Japan's maneuvers to achieve its ambition to reinvade the Korean peninsula, which is backed by the United States, are becoming all the more undisguised.

The chairman of the Political Affairs Research Council of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party appeared on a Fuji Television broadcast on 31 March, emphasizing they should first resolve the issue of constitutional interpretation on whether collective self-defense measures can be exercised as regards Japan-U.S. cooperation in case of an emergency in the Far East, such as the situation on the Korean peninsula.

While reporting on this, Japan's ASAHI SHIMBUN revealed that this is an attempt to accelerate as soon as possible the discussion on the constitutional interpretation that prohibits Tokyo from exercising the right of collective self-defense as a legal excuse to freely participate in military operations in the Far East, including the Korean peninsula, in conspiracy with the United States.

ASAHI SHIMBUN also disclosed that he even insisted the current constitutional interpretation enables rear area assistance, such as Japan providing fuel for U.S. troops in an case of an emergency on the Korean peninsula.

This remark shows they are working to rapidly revise the law so that it will be favorable in realizing their ambition to reinvade the Korean peninsula, and that they are openly proposing for the time being, even by unreasonably applying the current constitution, that they will all the more strengthen their military alliance with the United States to realize their ambitions of reinvasion.

DPRK: SKNDF Urges 'Sternly' Judging ROK Ruling Party

SK0804112596 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 8 (KCNA) — The Central Committee of the National Democratic Front of South Korea (NDFSK) [SKNDF] issued an appeal to the South Korean people on April 5 with the 15th "National Assembly election" at hand.

The appeal said the "election" slated for April 11 is not merely a scramble for heading the poll but an acute political showdown between the old, corrupt forces and the progressive forces championing independence, democracy and reunification and a serious struggle decisive of the direction of the situation with the change of power in the offing.

The struggle concerning the "election" should be concentrated on smashing the getting-more-votes strategy of the Kim Yong-sam's "New Korea Party [NKP]" and creating the situation in which the ruling party is minority and the opposition camp is majority, it said.

Noting that all of the "NKP" candidates are bastards of the Kim Yong-sam "civilian" dictatorship and despicable political prostitutes, the appeal called for sternly judging the "NKP" to settle the grudge of all the people.

It also called on the people to vote not for the candidates of the corrupt party and politicians stained with slush fund but for newly emerging forces devotedly struggling for independence, democracy and reunification.

It stressed the need to resolutely check "election" frauds by the ruling party, which is resorting to power and money.

It called for invigorating and expanding the struggle for the abolition of the "National Security Law," which serves as a club for violent "election," and the dissolution of the "Agency for National Security Planning" and "Defence Security Command," which are hotbeds of fraudulent "election."

The appeal also called for categorically rejecting the domination and interference by the United States, which has supported the "NKP."

It made a call for forming a great alliance against Kim Yong-sam and the conservative forces and winning a victory in the "election" through a joint action and a joint struggle.

DPRK: ROK Denounced for Constructing Heavy-Water Reactors

SK0604011496 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1224 GMT 3 Apr 96

[Commentary by Kim Ho-sam: "Criminal Act Aimed at Showering Nuclear Calamity on the Nation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Seoul-based radio Voice of National Salvation reported that the Central Committee of the National Democratic Front of South Korea [SKNDF] recently issued an indictment against the Kim Yong-sam ring's development of heavy- water reactors which is aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula.

According to the indictment, the Kim Yong-sam ring is now engaged in the construction of three new heavy-water reactors, saying that they are for commercial purposes. The Kim Yong-sam ring's remark is like that of a thief with a bad conscience who is apt to give himself away, and is nothing but a canny trick to hide its true nature as a nuclear maniac.

As everyone knows, a heavy-water reactor is less commercially- viable than any other type of reactor. This is why few countries introduce heavy-water reactors, and why countries attempt even to remove existing heavy-water reactors. Under this situation, why on earth is traitor Kim Yong-sam desperately trying to introduce the heavy-water reactors that the world defies and says is not economic? The construction of the three heavy-water reactors by the Kim Yong- sam ring is truly aimed at nothing but using them for nuclear arms development. The Kim Yong-sam ring is indeed made up of nuclear maniacs and is the nation's bitter enemy who plans on showering a nuclear calamity on the entire nation.

At present, about 1,000 U.S. nuclear weapons are deployed in South Korea, four times more densely than those deployed in the area of U.S.-led NATO in Europe. Unsatisfied with this, the Kim Yong-sam ring is making desperate efforts to develop nuclear weapons. As has already been exposed to the world, a candu-type heavy-water reactor introduced from Canada has been in operation in Wolsong, South Korea since 1983. It has been revealed that this heavy-water reactor is connected to the puppets' nuclear weapons development. Scientists view that the amount of plutonium produced at the reactor is enough to produce some 380 nuclear bombs.

Yet, the Kim Yong-sam ring is now constructing three more heavy- water reactors, despite the South Korean people's strong protest and denunciation. This is not the only thing that shows the Kim Yong- sam ring's true nature as nuclear maniacs. The puppets attempted to construct a nuclear waste dump on Kurop Island, Toksong-myon, Ongjin County, Kyonggi Province a long time ago, but their attempt failed due to the South Korean people's strong protest. They are now planning to construct nuclear power plants and a nuclear waste dump in an area in Kangwon Province, South Korea, near the Military Demarcation Line and our side. What unrelenting nuclear maniacs they are!

The DPRK and the United States are now promoting a project to fundamentally resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula in accordance with the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework. The DPRK and the United States have practically proceeded with the project of constructing light-water reactors by holding contacts many times. At this time, the Kim Yong-sam ring is fervently engaged in the nuclear weapons development, running counter to the trend of the time.

The Kim Yong-sam ring's maneuver to construct heavy-water reactors is very dangerous. As the world recognizes, South Korea's nuclear facilities and technology lag behind and are quite defective. This is why a series of various dangerous accidents took place at atomic reactor facilities in South Korea in recent years. It is not mere chance that a Japanese nuclear scientist noted the backwardness of South Korea's nuclear technology and warned that a large accident killing over 400,000 people may take place in South Korea.

No one knows what explosion will take place at the new heavy- water reactors of South Korea that are to be constructed based on such backward nuclear technology. The heavy-water reactors that the Kim Yong-sam ring plans to construct not only involve such great danger, but will cause grave consequences in guaranteeing peace and security on the Korean peninsula and in the Far East situation.

Now, the Kim Yong-sam ring is conducting armed provocation against us daily. In light of the development of the situation in South Korea, it becomes clear that the Kim Yong-sam ring has made up its mind to bring about a real war. What will happen if the puppets construct as many as three heavy-water reactors and produce plutonium under this situation? Needless to say, that will amplify distrust and confrontation and again spark an arms buildup competition between North and South Korea.

It is also clear that the puppets' maneuver of constructing new heavy-water reactors will result in nuclear arms race in the Far East. The Kim Yong-sam ring is a group of nuclear maniacs who not only introduce others' nuclear weapons, but also constantly speed up their own nuclear armament to bring nuclear calamity onto the heads of the fellow countrymen.

It is impossible to denuclearize the Korean peninsula and secure peace in Asia while leaving this enemy of the nation as they are in the country. The Kim Yong-sam ring should abandon its own nuclear armament before talking about someone else's nuclear threat. If they refuse to do so and continue their nuclear weapons development while accelerating the construction of heavy-water reactors, they will be made to pay dearly for it.

We do not like empty words. If the Kim Yong-sam ring continues to raise its nuclear mushrooms, we will take due countermeasures.

DPRK: Kim Yong-sam To Turn Apr Elections Into 'Rowdyism' of Fraud

SK0704075496 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0725 GMT 7 Apr 96

["Precursor of Sword-Swaying and Fraudulent 'Election'" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 7 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppet prime minister in a "statement for the people" regarding "National Assembly election" said that the "government" would "sternly deal with" such illegal acts as offering of valuables and violent acts by totally mobilizing power, repeatedly resorting to deceptive calls for "observation of Election Law" and "realization of fair election". This comes under fire in a NODONG SINMUN commentary today.

Describing it as nothing but remarks implying the intention to turn the soon-to-be-held "election" into a rowdyism of sword swaying and frauds for the winning of the "New Korea Party" [NKP] candidates, the commentary says:

As for the offering of valuables and violent acts which the puppet prime minister, Yi Su-song, threatened to "sternly deal with", they are what the "NKP" has perpetrated.

His remarks that the recent "violent demonstrations" staged by students have a big possibility of doing harm to the "climate of fair election" were motivated by an ulterior intention.

The Kim Yong-sam group is scheming to fake up a "landslide victory" of the "NKP" at any cost by dint of all powers, repressive forces and money.

The South Korean students and people will never tolerate the puppets' "election" frauds and punish the Kim Yong-sam group through the "election".

DPRK: Japan-Resident Koreans Issue Appeal on ROK 'Suppression'

SK0804041496 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0329 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 8 (KCNA) — An appeal to the South Korean people was issued on March 21 by the Association for Demanding the Release of Pro-reunification Patriots, an organization of the Korean Residents in Japan.

The appeal said that the pro-reunification patriotic forces and personages including the South side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon), who are active for the peace and peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula on the three principles of national reunification — independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity — are made objects of persecution and suppression and incriminated by the fascist clique of South Korea.

The appeal called on the South Korean people to stir up public opinion for the release of all pro-reunification patriots and prisoners of conscience and strongly demand the repeal of the "National Security Law" hindering the reconciliation, unity and reunification of the nation.

It called for joint efforts in opposing war that will inflict immeasurable disaster upon the nation, achieving a durable peace and realizing the reunification, the desire of the nation.

DPRK: NODONG SINMUN Urges Koreans To Defeat NKP in Elections

SK0704080396 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0729 GMT 7 Apr 96

["Big Defeat Should Be Given to Traitors" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 7 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today calls on the South Korean people to give a defeat to the Kim Yong-sam group's "New Korea Party" [NKP] candidates in the upcoming 15th "National Assembly election" so as to drive the traitorous Kim Yong-sam "regime" to a precipice and hasten its destruction.

The traitor Kim Yong-sam, who has paid lip service to "stainless election" and "fair election", is now crying that they must win the election on all accounts even by dint of strength, money or frauds. And, he has personally rolled up sleeves as an "election campaigner" in driving his men to fraud-stained "election" campaign.

The students and people of South Korea should continue to spearhead their struggle to laying bare the secret of the Kim Yong- sam's 1992 "presidential election" fund.

People of all walks of life of South Korea should not be deceived by the puppet clique's ad of "setting the modern history straight" but bring, on any account, the traitor to the trial of history through more valiant anti-kim Yong-sam struggle.

And they should give a big defeat to the "New Korea Party" in the "election" as they did to the "Democratic Liberal Party" in the "local autonomous body election" last year.

South Korean students and people should invigorate activities for mutual solidarity and support and expand and develop them into a nationwide mass struggle to defeat the Kim Yong-sam group and his "New Korea Party".

DPRK: Yang Hyong-sop on Armistice Pact, 10-Point Program

SK0604045996 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 4 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A Pyongyang report meeting marking the third anniversary of the publication of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's historic work "The 10-Point Program for Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Country's Reunification" was held at the People's Palace of Culture on 4 April.

Placed in front of the report meeting hall was the portrait of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and our people. Slogans reading "Long live the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song!" and "Long live the glorious Workers Party of Korea [WPK]!" were also displayed.

Participating in the report meeting were functionaries of central organizations and social organizations and people of different strata living in Pyongyang.

Also participating in the report meeting were delegations of overseas compatriots, including the General Association of Korean residents in Japan [Chongnyon], who are currently visiting the socialist fatherland.

Entering the rostrum were Comrade Yi Chong-ok, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice president; Comrade Yang Hyong-sop, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; Comrade Chang Chol, vice premier of the Administration Council; Yu Mi-yong, chairman of the Chondoist Chongu Party Central Committee; and responsible functionaries of the party, government, social and religious groups.

Also entering the rostrum were Yi Chong-sang, chief of the Pyongyang mission of the South Korean National Democratic Fronts; and Paek Chong-won, chairman of the Korean Physical Culture and Sports Federation in Japan.

The reporting meeting began with the playing of the national anthem.

In the report meeting, Comrade Yang Hyong-sop delivered a commemorative report.

[Begin Yang recording] Comrades, today, all people across the country are united in one heart around the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, uplifting the red flag and vigorously accelerating the general march toward socialism. At an emotional time when our 70 million fellow countrymen have actively risen to the pannational reunification movement to make this year a year of peace and great national unity, and to mark a turning point in the fatherland's reunification, we are marking the significant third anniversary of the publication of the respected and beloved leader [kyongaehanun suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song's immortal classical work "The 10-Point Program for Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Country's Reunification."

All the fellow countrymen in the North, South, and overseas are recalling the achievement of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song who opened a bright future road for national reunification three years ago by putting forward "The 10-Point Program for Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Country's Reunification." They are now overflowing with burning resolve to unfailingly realize the fatherland's independent and peaceful reunification by firmly uniting the entire nation and upholding high the fatherly leader's behests.

As everyone knows, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's historic work "The 10-Point Program for Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Country's Reunification" was announced at the sternest period, when the danger for a new war further increased in our country due to the commotions of invasion and interference of the imperialists and reactionaries, and our nation's reunification cause faced new challenges.

Because of provocative anti-Republic commotions by the imperialist reactionaries and the South Korean ruling circles who conspired with them, a touch-and-go situation in which a new war could have been unleashed at any time was created then on the Korean peninsula, and our fellow countrymen were faced with an extremely serious crisis in which we were on the verge of suffering the ravages of fratricidal war in addition to the tragedy of division.

It was the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji], the destiny of the nation and the fatherland as well as the supreme commander of our revolutionary Armed Forces, who drove away the dark clouds of nuclear war which constantly cast over the lands of the fatherland, and saved our fellow countrymen who were standing at the crossroads of life.

Dealing with the country's prevailing situation, the respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil changgunnim], who is an ever-victorious iron-willed commander, declared a state of semi-war in the entire country, among all the people and the entire Army as an order of the supreme commander. By doing so, he smashed with one stroke the joint attack of the imperialist reactionaries and their following forces; defended our revolution and socialism; and safeguarded our Republic's supreme interests. [applause]

The situation on the Korean peninsula— where adversity was turned into a favorable condition and where misfortune was turned into fortune because the respected and beloved Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il frustrated at a stroke the desperate reactionary offensive of the united force of imperialists with his unequalled audacity, wisdom of a genius, scientific insight, and abundant and variable strategy and tactics—urgently demanded that the entire nation unite firmly and open a bright future for the country's reunification.

At that very time on 6 April 1993, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song—the genius of the revolution, the sun of the nation, and the lodestar of the country's reunification—formulated an outstanding idea on achieving at an early date the historical cause of the country's reunification with the independent strength of the nation. He worked out and announced himself "The 10-Point Program for Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Country's Reunification." [applause]

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: It is the entire nation's consistent demand and will to end the nearly half-a-century division and confrontation and reunify the country. To realize the country's independent and peaceful reunification, the entire nation should achieve great unity.

In "The 10-Point Program for Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Country's Reunification," the great leader set forth first the program's basic idea that all who are concerned about the nation's destiny should be united as one and make their own characteristic contribution to the country's reunification and the growth and prosperity of the reunified country. He originally elucidated the general objective of the great national unity on founding an independent, peaceful, and neutral pan-national unified state through the great unity of the entire nation, on the ideological basis of the great unity of the nation based on the spirit of love for the nation and the national spirit of independence, and on the principle of unity of promoting coexistence, co-prosperity, mutual advantage, and making everything serve the cause of the country's reunification.

In "The 10-Point Program for Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Country's Reunification," the great leader also comprehensively proposed practical ways to achieve great national unity, such as the North and the South suspending all political strife, trusting each other and uniting; advancing hand in hand together on the road of the country's reunification irrespective of differences in ideology and assertions; protecting all assets owned by individuals and organizations and utilizing them in the interest of great national unity; the entire nation understanding, trusting, and uniting through contacts, mutual visits, and dialogue; and fairly appraising those who contributed to the great national unity and the cause of the country's reunification.

"The 10-Point Program for Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Country's Reunification," which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song promulgated, is the most reasonable and realistic political program of national unity and the great charter of the country's reunification. Everyone who truly loves the country and the nation and desires the country's reunification can accept it, irrespective of ideology, system, party and faction, the post he holds, his place of residence, or property because of its thorough, patriotic, and nation-loving position and the fairness and justness consistent throughout its clauses. [applause]

"The 10-Point Program for Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Country's Reunification" is above all a banner of patriotism and love for the nation. It is consistent in making everything serve the country's reunification, starting from a love for the nation and the spirit of national independence and placing the whole nation's interests above any other interests of class and stratum. It is the holy scripture of national unity which exactly reflects the consistent desire and demand of the entire nation to end the distrust and confrontation within the nation that have continued for nearly half a century and to achieve reconciliation and unity of the entire nation.

The 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation is also a great political program to resolve all problems in the spirit of mutual respect and concession from a national standpoint, and to achieve broad unity of the entire nation by tolerating with magnanimity even those who committed crimes before the nation in the past if they repent of their past crimes and come to the road of patriotism.

This historic program extensively reflects the great chuche idea founded by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, his ideology on great national unity, and his immortal achievements and his precious experience in the struggle to achieve this unity.

The 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation is the program in which the thorough patriotic and nation-loving idea to rescue our nation from the tragedy of division and a war disaster and lead it to live happily in an independent reunified country has been embodied. It is also the nation's common reunification program for which all the people in the North and the South should vigorously struggle. [applause]

The 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation presented by the great leader [widaehan suryongnim] is the great reunification charter which is of great historic significance. This program brilliantly elucidates the most reasonable and realistic ways of resolving the reunification question. Therefore, it is a torch of patriotism and a milestone that make it possible for the whole nation to more vigorously rise up in the patriotic struggle for the cause of national reunification with a clear objective for national reunification and a firm conviction.

The 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation is also the encouraging banner of struggle and solidarity which has not only dealt serious blows to splittists at home and abroad who are afraid of our nation's reconciliation and unity, but has also more vigorously whipped up international support and encouragement for our people's struggle for national reunification.

The 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation is a patriotic and nation-loving program, and the one and only canon that the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the matchless patriot and the father of the 70 million fellow countrymen, can present. [applause]

The fatherly leader [suryongnim], who was energetically active in national reunification without relaxing day or night, saying "the gift I can give our people is national reunification and I cannot sleep at night thinking of the fellow countrymen writhing with the pain of national division," extensively elucidated the three principles for national reunification of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity; great reunification programs and policies, including the formula of founding a Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo; and ways for their realization. Thus, he wisely organized and led our people's struggle.

At every phase and period of the developing situation, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song broke through all sorts of difficulties and barriers lying across the road of reunification, opened the bright road ahead for national reunification, and, thus registered the immortal achievements that will be recorded forever in the history of our nation's national reunification movement.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's presentation of the 10- point program for great unity of the whole nation is the most brilliant achievement he has registered on the chronicle of national reunification. [applause]

Our party and the government of the Republic have made every effort to implement the 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation, presented by the great leader [widaehan suryongnim]. The great leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, who made more devoted efforts than anyone else to implement the respected and beloved leader's [kyongaehanun suryongnim] ideas and plans on reunification of the fatherland, has wisely led our people's struggle to implement the 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation.

The respected and beloved general [kyongaehanun changgunnim] has taken wise measures to positively carry out the work of explaining and propagandizing the 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation, and he exercised energetic leadership to ensure that the movement to support this program be carried out vigorously among compatriots at home and abroad and people of the world.

The respected and beloved general [kyongaehanun changgunnim] has also ensured that the full text of the 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation and letters of appeal to 70 million fellow countrymen be sent to parties and organizations and personages from all walks of life in South Korea and overseas, including the current South Korean chief executive [namjosonui hyondanggukcha]. He has also ensured that the struggle for great unity of the whole nation be waged vigorously in South Korea and overseas.

The respected and beloved general [kyongaehanun changgunnim] has also wisely led the work of ensuring that the movement be carried out to win international support for and international solidarity with the 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation, declared by the great leader [widaehan suryongnim].

Thanks to the energetic leadership of the respected and beloved general [kyongaehanun changgunnim], heads of parties, states, and governments; distinguished personages of political and social circles; and progressive people of various countries of the world have highly assessed the 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation as Korea's program on reunification and as Korea's only charter on reunification. They have extended positive support and encouragement to our people's just struggle for national unity and reunification. The ranks of international supporters and sympathizers for our cause of reunification have increased quickly, and a more favorable international environment for the fatherland's reunification has been promoted.

Truly, the wise leadership of the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il is a decisive guarantee to implement the respected and beloved leader's [kyongaehanun suryongnim] cause of reunification. [applause]

The great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song brightened the road of the fatherland's reunification, and the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has wisely led our people's struggle to reunify the fatherland. As a result, bright prospects are open for our nation's road in carrying out the cause of the fatherland's reunification.

On this meaningful occasion to mark the third anniversary of the respected and beloved leader's [kyongaehanun suryongnim] presentation of the 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation, I sincerely express my greatest respect to the respected and beloved leader [kyongaehanun suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song — the genius of the revolution, the legendary hero, and the eternal sun of the nation, who brightens the road of the fatherland's reunification with the rays of chuche and always leads our people to the single road of victory and honor. Also, in the name of all Korean people, with boundless adoration and ardent loyalty, I respectfully extend the greatest honor and warmest thanks to the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il — the destiny of our fatherland and nation and the lodestar of the fatherland's reunification, who is brilliantly inheriting the great leader's [widaehan suryongnim] revolutionary cause and making sleepless and restless efforts to hasten the fatherland's reunification by implementing the leader's [suryongnim] behest on reunification. [applause]

Comrades: Today, all Korean people in the North, South, and abroad have the heavy and honorable task of hastening the advent of peace in the country and its peaceful reunification on independent national strength by implementing the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation, presented by the great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song.

The 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation for the country's reunification set forth by the great leader [widaehan suryong] is a great charter for national unity and reunification which fully embodies the three principles of national reunification — independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity — which were made public jointly by the North and the South. Implementing the program at an early date is the only road for reunifying the country and the smoothest road for solving the reunification issue.

Assuming a firm stance to reunify the country independently through the nation's efforts is what is important in implementing the 10-point program for great national unity to achieve national reunification.

The fundamental spirit of the 10-point program for great national unity is that we should open a new way out for the nation by opposing outside forces, achieving the historic cause of national reunification with solid national unity, and preventing the danger of war through the nation's own efforts. Our country's division was brought about by outside forces. Our country remained divided and could not achieve independent reunification for a half century because of the interference racket of foreign forces.

It is a serious lesson left by our nation's bitter history that when we depend on foreign forces, the country will go to ruin and the nation will suffer a calamity. The reality in South Korea also shows such a stark truth. Nonetheless, the incumbent South Korean authorities are more bluntly engaged in running after foreigners-dependent policy and in the treacherous act of selling the interests of the country and the nation to foreign forces than any other rulers of the past.

The incumbent South Korean ruling camp, being manipulated by foreign force, used the fictitious North Korean nuclear issue to completely freeze the North-South dialogue, which had continued even under the military dictatorship. It stood at the vanguard to lead the united force of imperialists in its anti-Republic maneuvers while babbling about a so-called international cooperative system. By doing so, it tenaciously perpetrated treacherous acts of harming its fellow countrymen.

As long as such flunkeyist treacherous acts and antireunification divisional maneuvers by the South Korean ruling circle are not eliminated, national reconciliation and unity can never be realized.

Anyone who loves the country and nation and wishes its reunification should categorically oppose and reject the foreigners-dependent policy against the nation and the separatist move against reunification on the part of the present South Korean ruling circles.

To realize the 10-point program for great national unity of the whole nation and, thus, to reunify the fatherland, it is imperative to ensure durable peace on the Korean peninsula.

We proposed making this year a year of peace and great national unity and exerted every effort to realize this. This is to prevent the danger of a war that is further increasing with each passing day and to open up a turning-point in the country's peace and peaceful reunification with the unity of the entire nation.

The issue of replacing the old armistice system with a new peace- guaranteeing system can only be resolved between the parties directly involved in the Korean Armistice Agreement, that is, ourselves and the United States. The South Korean authorities are foolish to talk about some duty of the Armistice Agreement and a peace-guaranteeing system between the North and South. If the South Korean rulers are truly interested in guaranteeing peace on the Korean peninsula, they first have to stop the reckless commotion of military confrontation that brings about the risk of a new war.

Today, the South Korean rulers beg U.S. Forces and nuclear weapons to remain in South Korea, and are unceasingly conducting joint military exercises to invade compatriots in league with foreign forces. They purchased a large amount of war equipment and weapons of mass destruction from foreign countries, and viciously committed military provocations on the Military Demarcation Line to threaten us. They spur on the nuclear weapons development, which has been already underway, and try to place grave new obstacles in front of the resolution of the nuclear issue between the DPRK and the United States and North-South relations. They do not hesitate to make a dangerous provocation by building a large-scale nuclear complex right under the Military Demarcation Line in Kosong County in the South Korean Kangwon Province. Instigated by the U.S. ultra-rightist conservative forces, the Kim Yong-sam ring adopts a confrontation and war maneuver, driving the situation of the Korean peninsula to the brink of war.

In reality, the danger of war surging from the South has erased any doubt about whether war will break out on the Korean peninsula, and all that remains is the issue of the timing of such an outbreak. [silchero, chigum chosonbandoesonun namuro puto millyo onun chonjaeng wihomuro hayo kugosi onje tojinunga hanun ku sichomi munjero toego issulppun chonjaengi ironandanun kosun uimunui yojiga opke toeossumnida] Peace and peaceful reunification on the Korean peninsula is valuable, but our firm will is that we will not beg for it. Under today's circumstances, in which the South Korean puppets' provocation of a northward aggression is a matter of time, we cannot help but seek due countermeasures. If the enemies dare touch an inch of our land or a clump of our grass, our People's Army and people, who are filled with faith in certain victory and enemy- defeating spirit, will smash them with a resolute self-defense measure. [applause]

As long as the South Korean puppets' confrontation and war maneuvers continue, solid peace on the Korean peninsula cannot be guaranteed, and peaceful reunification cannot be expected. The South Korean puppets should send home the puppet aggressive force and nuclear weapons in South Korea and stop the reckless provocation maneuver that aggravates the tense situation.

Our proposal to make this year a year of peace and great national unity contains our nation's chuche-oriented position and peace- loving will to win peace, which no one else can present to us as a gift, by the strength of our nation, and reflects the entire nation's patriotic and nation-loving desire to save the country and the nation from the calamity of war imposed by the flunkeyist traitorous bellicose force and open the way to the country's reunification—the foremost task of the nation. All the Korean compatriots who love the country and desire the nation's security should launch themselves into the pan-national concerted struggle to resolutely check and frustrate the war and confrontation maneuvers of the South Korean bellicose elements, transcending the differences in ideology, system, political view, and religion. [applause]

If the United States truly wants peace on the Korean peninsula, it should respond as soon as possible to our concrete proposal for establishing a new peace-guaranteeing system.

To realize the 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation and achieve the cause the country's reunification, the entire nation should achieve great national unity, transcending the differences in ideology, ideals, and system.

To achieve the cause of reunification through great national unity, the National Security Law, the antireunification evil fascist law that hinders national reconciliation and unity and lays an obstacle on the road to reunification, should be abolished; the Agency for National Security Planning, the den of antireunification fascist stratagem, should be disbanded; and the South Korean ruling bunch's anticommunist fascist maneuvers should be crushed.

As long as the fascist evil law and the repressive mechanism, which block and regard as a crime the acts of adhering to advanced ideology and meeting with compatriots in the North to discuss the reunification question, are left as they are, no national reconciliation and unity can be achieved nor can North-South dialogue progress.

The South Korean ruling circles should unconditionally release all political prisoners, democratize students, and members of the South side's Headquarters of the National Democratic Alliance [Chonminyon] who have been illegally arrested and imprisoned because of the National Security Law. They should immediately stop suppressing and persecuting all reunification figures who are rising up in the road of just patriotism and reunification.

The South Korean ruling circles' talk about resuming dialogue and the like cannot be acceptable to anyone. The suspension of dialogue between the North and the South took place because the South Korean ruling circles refused North-South dialogue, saying they could not shake hands with a partner having nuclear weapons, while laying the blame on the nonexistent nuclear issue of the North. Thus they have viciously attempted to pursue an international mutual cooperation system in a bid to plot to harm fellow countrymen in collusion with outside forces.

In particular, the South Korean ruling circles aimed a rifle muzzle at and wielded a knife on fellow countrymen who were in deepest sorrow after suddenly losing the respected and beloved leader [suryongnim], the great father of the nation. Thus, they perpetrated the anti-national criminal act of even blocking the opportunity for North-South dialogue which had been arranged with much effort.

It is preposterous that these South Korean authorities talk about dialogue now. Speaking of North-South dialogue, at the end of last January, we held a joint meeting of political parties and social organizations of the Republic and started to make this year a year of peace and great national unity. We then expressed our magnanimous stance that we are prepared to hold contacts and dialogue with anyone without questioning his past, even though he committed crimes in the past, only if he sincerely comes to the road of achieving the country's reunification today, proceeding from an independent and national stance. In order to realize this, we sent a letter to political parties, organizations, and individuals in South Korea and overseas.

If the South Korean authorities belatedly want to come forward for North-South dialogue, they should apologize for the crimes committed during our mishap to the extent that the entire nation can accept and should abolish the National Security Law and all other legal and institutional devices that interfere with dialogue and reunification.

Transcending the differences in ideas, ideology, doctrine, or opinion, anyone who truly wishes reunification, irrespective of whether he is in the North, the South, or overseas, should firmly unite under the banner of the 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation and rise up for the struggle for reunifying the fatherland.

Reunifying the fatherland by realizing the 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation for the country's reunification is a behest of the great leader [widaehan suryong] as well as the consistent stance of our party and the government of the Republic. [applause]

Our party and the Republic Government will uphold the great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song's great achievement for reunification, and will devote all efforts to the end to implement the 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation for the country's reunification under the leadership of the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Standing at the head of our people's noble struggle is the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is a peerless great man, the destiny of the nation, and the lodestar of national reunification. [applause]

The fellow countrymen in the North, the South, and overseas should bear in their minds the iron faith that, as long as they uphold the leadership of the respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil changgun], national reunification is certain. They should also audaciously rise up to implement the cause of reunification; resolutely smash the obstruction maneuvers and vicious challenge of the splittist force at home and abroad; and firmly unite under the banner of great national unity. Thereby, they should make this year a year for a new phase of national reunification.

All the people in the northern half of the Republic should solidly unite around the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il and live and struggle in the spirit of Arduous March. Thereby, they should solidly cement the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style as an invincible one and staunchly fight ahead to make our country, our fatherland, prosperous.

Only victory and glory lie ahead on the future road of our people who vigorously march ahead for their bright future by flying high the red flag under the tested leadership of the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, keeping in mind the behest of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song. [applause]

We should uphold the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji], who is the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] of our party and people and the lodestar of national reunification, with a single heart of loyalty and filial duty, and vigorously fight for the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland, socialist construction, and the completion of the chuche revolutionary cause. [applause] [end recording]

DPRK Daily Stresses Nerve-Center of Revolution

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[NODONG SINMUN 1 April political essay: "For the Nerve-Center (sunoebu) of the Revolution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An extraordinary era bears great faith. The sacred appearance of a great commander [widaehan yongjang] who has come forth in the arduous struggle for the revolution's victory calls forth great awareness among the hearts of the people.

Currently, our people are filled with great emotion and excitement after hearing the news of the respected and beloved [kyongaehanun] Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] of our party and people and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA], consecutively inspecting various units of the People's Army of the eastern, western, and central fronts.

General Kim Chong-il is the single pillar of mind whom our people live for and have faith in like heaven, and great defender of our fate. For our fate and victory in man's independent cause, he personally visited the foremost guard posts which are acutely standing face to face between the revolution and antirevolution, and socialism and imperialism.

Today, when the imperialists and reactionaries of history are viciously and dastardly maneuvering to crush our Republic, what would be the feelings of our people who are able to see the sacred appearance of the respected and beloved [kyongaehanun] Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il, the top nerve-center [choego sunoebu] of our revolution, at the foremost guard post? And what is the ideological emotion erupting in the hearts of our people?

Whenever we saw at the foremost guard posts the great general [widaehan changgunnim], whom we longed for when we were awake or asleep, one vigorous slogan burst out like thunder shaking the hills of the fatherland along with storm-like shouts of hurrah in the hearts of the one-match-for-a-100 brave men of the People's Army. This was the do-or-die shout to fight by devoting one's life for the respected and beloved [kyongaehanun] Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Let us defend with the do-or-die spirit the nerve-center [sunoebu] of the revolution for the great General Kim Chong-il! This is not only the shouts coming from the hearts of our soldiers. This is all of our people's great emotion, great surging faith, and awareness which were all engraved in their hearts when they read in the newspapers and watched on television the respected and beloved general [kyongaehanun changgunnim] personally inspecting the foremost guard posts. All the people of the whole country are mobilized for this one goal, one faith, and one determination.

During a gathering in the capital, when it received news of the respected and beloved [kyongaehanun] comrade supreme commander's consecutive inspections to the foremost units of the KPA, shouts of emotion were heard like bullet shots.

At this time, I deeply thought about what my heart must beat for, what my blood must flow for, and for what all things in the world must exist. Devoting one's life for the fatherly general [oboi changgunnim] is a precious fate of our fatherland; the goal of our sacred struggle and goal in life; and great happiness.

Our youths, who are highly proud to call themselves the preliminary combat unit and flying unit of the supreme commander and who have consolidated the determination to become 5 million guns and bombs, are not the only ones making a blazing determination. During the past fatherland liberation war, with the determination to sacrifice our youth and life, we fought at the No. 1211 Height for the great leader [widaehan suryongnim]. As soon as we saw the respected and beloved [kyongaehanun] comrade supreme commander who arrived at the No. 351 Height and the guard post of Mt. Taedok, I shouted without even knowing it: For the great general [widaehan changgunnim]! If the comrade supreme commander calls us, I will unhesitatingly return to the times when I was a (?young) soldier and will sacrifice my life with my heart. This was a remark made by an old soldier who carried out many beneficial deeds for the country and received the respected and beloved [kyongaehanun] comrade supreme commander's thanks on many occasions.

From our heroic working class, cooperative farmers, working intellectuals, to the members of the Children's Union wearing the red necktie, women of the neighborhood unit, and elders, all people who are living on this land vigorously launched as one to become vanguards and do-or-die units defending the great general [widaehan changgunnim].

Let us defend with the do-or-die unit the nerve-center [sunoebu] of the revolution for the great General Kim Chong-il! The red flag fluttering on this land is all the more blazing filled with our people's indomitable spirit and the spirit of arduous march which is overflowing throughout the whole country is also all the more vigorously spreading the wings embraced with this lofty intention.

We love the song, "We Will Absolutely Defend the Nerve-Center of the Revolution" and uphold the song deep in our hearts. Our ideology and faith are precisely the ideology and faith of absolutely defending the great general, and our feelings and emotion, as well, are precisely the burning feelings and emotion for the general.

Under the purest slogan, Korea is rising up, fighting, and advancing more vigorously.

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: Thinking of the victory in the revolution without the leader [suryong] is like expecting flowers without the sun.

The spirit of resolutely defending the great leader [suryong] by putting at the forefront his revered name as the sacred banner of struggle and life and as the goal of [word indistinct] is the highest self-consciousness [chagak] and faith of the people carrying out the revolution.

History has witnessed the excited facts that people joined heroic, decisive battles, calling the name of their leader [suryong] the name of their fatherland, the name of their revolution, and the name of victory.

For our people, the appearance of Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il, who is at the forefront of the revolution, is fervently coming to us as the matchless and invincible symbol which can make any powerful enemy fall on its knees, as the incarnation of the fatherland and the nation, and as the incarnation of great love.

Our people are resolutely defending the ever-victorious mettle and boundless devotion of the great commander [widaehan yongjang] who is boldly opening the road ahead for the revolution while personally smashing the (?tyranny) of imperialism.

At this majestic moment in which an acute confrontation is being unfolded to determine socialism or capitalism, we are holding aloft this banner of glory together with our sacred dignity and honor only for the great general and for the victory of the socialist fatherland of chuche and for the eternal prosperity of the Kim Il- song nation.

Thinking of the great achievements and benevolence of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who has bestowed the honor of the most proud fatherland and the nation and the brilliant life upon us, we are burning with the firm determination and faith to consummate to the end the chuche revolutionary cause by adhering to the leader's [suryongnim] behest.

We will never lay down the red flag dyed with the blood of the fallen revolutionary fighters because our chuche cause is the justest and most sacred in this world, because our fatherland is precious, because our future is precious, and because our life is precious.

We are raising this voice of heart with the resolute and firm determination to defend the leader [suryong], devoting our lives, because we infinitely love our next generations.

The country, the nation, and an individual alike have various objectives. Today, the Korean people have put one great objective at the forefront, live, and are staunchly fighting for this objective. For the great general! Herein lie our brilliant life, the fatherland's peace and prosperity, the people's liberty and happiness, the fatherland's reunification, the final victory of the chuche cause, and everything that we want.

For the great general! This is the banner of our victory. The revolution is synonymous with victory, and victory is precisely our objective. Our extraordinary spirit of resolutely defending and upholding the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander, the nerve-center of the revolution, is the victors' faith, the victors' mettle, and the victors' courage to boldly smash the storm of history and, thus, to achieve great victory in the single road of chuche, the single road of socialism.

For the great general! When we possess this faith, we can see the majestic canvas of the matchless and iron-willed ranks dashing toward victory. When we burn our hearts with this faith, our bodies will seethe with the fighting spirit and courage to smash the enemy, and any barrier can be broken through in one breath and a brilliant future of dashing toward the high hill of victory can be foreseen.

The noble appearance of the respected and beloved supreme commander General Kim Chong-il, who stands in the front of the operation section of the forward command post of a frontline unit of the Korean People's Army! This dignified appearance, full of the mettle, courage, and dignity of the general of Mt. Paektu, is precisely the image of our revolution's victory and the image of Korea's victory.

During the Korean war, the brave soldiers of our People's Army and our citizens were filled with a faith in victory and with the courage to achieve that victory while looking up to the appearance of General Kim Il-song, the ever-victorious and iron-willed commander who opened the road of victory while drawing red arrows on maps in front of the operation section of the supreme command.

Today, looking up to the appearance of our general, who stands in front of the operation section of a frontline guardpost, we vow to resolutely defend the respected and beloved general in order to achieve victory.

The nerve-center of the revolution is the leader [suryong] of the revolution. Our general is the supreme commander and the nerve- center of the revolution. The supreme command where the great general stays is the heart of the revolution where all of our victories are designed and unfolded. Our supreme command is the supreme command of the revolution, which reliably defends our fatherland's destiny, our nation's dignity, and the people's peace from the counterrevolutionary offensives and aggressions of the imperialists. Our supreme command is also the supreme command of socialist construction that makes our country, our fatherland, even richer. It is also the great supreme command of a brilliant life that embraces in the bosom of the mother all the people living in this land and leads them to a brilliant and promising future.

The victory of the Korean revolution lies precisely in resolutely defending the nerve-center of the revolution. The revolution has its own rules for achieving victory. The revolution is destined to face a fierce class struggle. Sometimes it has to encounter many enemies and face critical moments of waging a life and death struggle and a showdown against them, and sometimes it has to encounter the formidable adversity of having to surmount all sorts of trials. What determines success or failure in such a difficult revolution? It is precisely the spirit of resolutely defending the nerve-center.

We engrave deep in our hearts this truth of the revolution and this rule of victory as the (?summation) of the Korean revolution, which is passing beyond the steep mountain of history, having recorded only victories. The tradition of the Korean revolution is the tradition of victory. This tradition is the tradition of resolutely defending the leader [suryong].

The spirit of defending the great hanbyol by the young communists, the pioneers of the Korean revolution! This spirit flew the first red flag of our revolution after surmounting the misfortune of national ruin, and thus brought about the brilliant dawn of the chuche revolutionary cause.

The spirit of defending the headquarters of the [word indistinct] 7th regiment! This spirit turned the arduous march into a march of victory, defeated the one-million-strong Japanese imperialist army, and finally made the cheers of national liberation reverberate throughout this land.

Where are you, our dear general? We miss you so much! The hearts of our brave soldiers of the People's Army, who were thinking about the supreme command where the great leader [suryongnim] stayed, not only during the course of southward advance but also during the deep night of [word indistinct], were burning with one single mind of loyalty. Because of this, we could defeat the U.S. imperialists, who were proud of being the strongest in the world, and thus sound the gun salute of victory.

The resolutely defending spirit of Kangson which [words indistinct]! Because of this spirit, we were able to remove the postwar ashes, and thus make the Chollima of heroic Korea fly.

Let us become today's 7th regiment in which the entire party, the entire Army, and all the people resolutely defend the respected and beloved supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il. Because of this great and resolutely defending spirit, we are dignifiedly advancing forward with firm faith even amid today's grim trials and adversities.

Our victory is the great general. Our general is the general of Mt. Paektu. The secret of today's victory of constantly advancing forward while breaking through multilayered trials and barriers lies in the wisdom of our general, and the secret of achieving victory in the fight with any powerful enemy lies in the general's strategy and courage. Our brilliant life and optimism of living today for tomorrow also lies in our general's great faith.

Imperialism is ruthless and crafty. Imperialist enemies always aim their arrow of attack at the nerve- center of the revolution. This is the general strategy of imperialism and the inherent nature of its counterrevolutionary offensives.

If we fail to defend the leader [suryong] neither socialism nor the revolution and the fatherland will remain. Revolutionaries should devote their lives to defending the nerve-center of the revolution. The leader's [suryong] party, the leader's army, and the leader's state which have risen up to defend the leader [suryong] at the risk of their lives are victorious and invincible.

For the great general! This is the great objective of our life. Our people have held aloft the banner of defending the leader [suryong] for their brilliant life and glory.

We love life. We love this land where our ancestors' bones are buried, the noble soul of the martyred patriots of the revolution dwells, and all the precious assets created by shedding blood and sweat exist. We love our motherly fatherland where our descendants will live generation after generation. We love our life shining with our dignity, honor, ideal, ambition, joy, and happiness.

We resolutely defend the great general because we treasure our own life. The plane of one's life is precisely the plane of one's outlook on life, that is, the plane of the objective of one's life. The secret of the noble life of the Korean communists and people who are carrying out the revolution by upholding the great leader [yongdoja] General Kim Chong-il at the head is precisely not only the extraordinary determination to resolutely defend the nerve- center of the revolution, but is also the spirit of being guns and bombs.

Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il who visited an Air Force unit of the Korean People's Army located in the east sector of the frontline personally looked over the notebooks of Kil Yong-cho, a pilot of this unit and a hero of the Republic, and a poem written by this pilot. Praising him the general said that he is a model of loyalty the entire army should emulate and that our party is strong and our fatherland is powerful because there are numerous loyalists like hero Kil Yong-cho.

The respected and beloved general highly appraised hero Kil Yong-cho as a genuine hero who defended the supreme command at the risk of his life. If he had escaped from his plane when he received the order from the ground to jump from the plane, hero Kil Yong-cho would have lived. Nevertheless, this heroic pilot did not hesitate to devote his life, to defending the great leader [suryongnim] and the supreme command of the revolution.

What revolutionary faith and what aspiration for life were fervently pulsating in his heart? The following phrases are from a poem he wrote when he was alive:

I direct the nose of my airplane higher. I am a death band and a commando of the air who cannot return to the ground without performing exploits. Stars are shining as the sun and [words indistinct]. Because I am a pilot of Korea and because I am a pilot of the respected and beloved supreme commander comrade, I will devote this body of mine to [words indistinct].

The burning desire to glorify the noble life as revolutionary fighters in the bosom of the great sun, the great general! This desire is the faith and determination of hero Kil Yong-cho and all of our revolutionary fighters, and is their supreme objective in life.

For those who are carrying out the revolution, the struggle to defend the leader [suryong] and its exploits are the most noble life and the utmost glory.

Just as we cannot think of an organism apart from the sun, we cannot think of the revolution nor the genuine life of a revolutionary fighter apart from the leader.

The glorious peak of human beings and the highest peak of their noblest life are to uphold the great leader [widaehan suryong] and to be loyal to their leader [suryong] to the end.

The life devoted to defending the nerve-center of the revolution is immortal. We will resolutely defend the respected and belove general for the highest honor and highest happiness of the immortal life.

Great Comrade Kim Chong-il! He is the great sun of our life and the father of our lives.

Today's struggle between socialism or capitalism is the confrontation between the two ideologies and between the two systems. It is also an uncompromising struggle between the independent people seeking to defend the rights of survival and the enemies trampling the rights of survival underfoot.

The imperialists and enemies are attempting to remove our hearts and to trample the rights of our existence underfoot by attacking the nerve-center of the revolution. We have become the guns and bombs to resolutely defend the great general for the life of our people, for the existence of the nation, and for the glory and happiness of human beings.

The supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il is standing at the forefront of our revolution, taking upon himself the destiny of the fatherland, the nation, and socialism and our future, while fighting braving the formidable storm of history.

He is called the warm-hearted father by the people and the lion of Mt. Paektu by enemies.

Our great General Kim Chong-il's mettle in certain victory, gifted strategy, and unshaken courage are boundlessly stirring up our people and encouraging the world.

If the respected and beloved supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong- il calls us to a holy war of justice [chonguiui songjon] to repulse the imperialist aggressors we will mercilessly punish the enemies by holding aloft this faith, "For the great General Kim Chong-il," as the banner of victory and as the glory of life and shouting it deep in our hearts.

For the great general! The whole country has been mobilized with this one objective and has been firmly united as one with this faith. We, the entire party, all the army, and all the people have lifted high the banner of defending the leader [suryong], the bayonet of resolutely defending the (?general) for our great victory, for the consummation of the chuche cause, and for our brilliant life and bright future.

No one in this world can block our way. Final victory is ours.

DPRK: NODONG SINMUN on 'Revolutionary Optimism' of Korean People

SK0604095596 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0950 GMT 6 Apr 96

["Source of Revolutionary Optimism of Korean People" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN today in a signed article says the revolutionary optimism of the Korean people is being brought into full play on the road of following the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The author of the article notes the Korean people's revolutionary optimism is a revolutionary spirit based on the conviction of the justness of their cause and the confidence in their strength.

The article goes on:

The Korean people under the uplifted banner of the chuche idea chose socialism by themselves and have pioneered it by their own efforts and successfully built the most advantageous Korean-style socialism on this land.

They are pushing ahead with socialist construction in any difficulties, thinking of the Korean-style socialism centred on the popular masses which will prosper boundlessly and of the future generations who will lead a worthier and happier life in its embrace.

Their revolutionary viewpoint toward life — to live for tomorrow — is full of the revolutionary optimism and iron faith in the validity and prospect of the socialist cause of chuche and full of the extraordinary readiness to devote their whole life to the road of socialism for the future of the country and the happiness of posterity, even though they may not enjoy pleasure.

Today they are firmly defending the socialist banner with the unshakable faith and mind that they defend socialism through all ordeals and hardships at the risk of life to see who will win finally.

They are confidently advancing the revolutionary cause of chuche with revolutionary optimism because they are led by Comrade Kim Chong-il.

As they covered the road of victory and glory in the past, firmly believing in the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as the mental support, they will accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche, full of conviction and optimism, absolutely trusting the respected general Kim Chong-il as the sun of life, the symbol of victory.

DPRK: Hwang Chang-yop Entertains Moldovan Party Delegation 6 Apr

SK0704074696 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0720 GMT 7 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 7 (KCNA) — The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] gave a reception on Saturday [6 April] in honor of the delegation of the Party of Communists of the Moldovan Republic Headed by V.N. Voronin, first secretary of the party Central Committee.

Speaking at the reception, Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, noted that the Party of Communists of the Moldovan Republic has made sustained efforts to expand its enrollment and strengthen itself organizationally and ideologically from the first days of its foundation, braving all the difficulties and hardships. "It has also striven to keep and retake sovereignty, territorial integrity and socialist policies of the country," he said.

"We highly appreciate the activities of your party, which is struggling for the establishment of a genuine people's government and for the building of socialism in Moldova, regarding them as its basic goal and principle," he said.

He added that the visit of the delegation would mark an important occasion in further developing the friendly relations between the two parties.

V.N. Voronin said in his speech that the guarantee for their going along the straight road of socialism is to be faithful to Marxism-Leninism and to the behests of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

"We will actively learn from Korea's achievements and experience in the building of socialism and apply them in practice, he added.

He hoped that the Korean people will make greater achievements in the building of socialism under the guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and the Workers' Party of Korea.

DPRK: Moldovan Party Delegation Visits Kumsusan Memorial Palace

SK0804042196 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0325 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 8 (KCNA) — A delegation of the Party of Communists of the Moldovan Republic led by First Secretary of its Central Committee V. N. Voronin on April 7 paid homage to the great leader President Kim Il-song at the Kumsusan Memorial Palace where he is lying in state.

The first secretary wrote in a visitor's book that it is important to carry forward the revolutionary cause of the great Comrade Kim Il-song in a creditable manner and the staunch fighters for socialism and communism should follow the road indicated by him.

In order to safeguard like the apples of eyes and glorify the revolutionary achievements scored by Comrade Kim Il-song, the international communist movement and the interests of the working people should be defended and the progressive forces should achieve unity, he wrote.

DPRK: Chang Chol Meets Bulgarian Government Cultural Delegation

SK0604113496 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA) — Vice- Premier and Minister of Culture and Arts Chang Chol met and had a friendly talk with a Bulgarian Government cultural delegation led by Ivan Bogdanov [spelling of name as received], deputy minister of culture, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on Saturday.

DPRK: Vice-President Yi Chong-ok Meets Yugoslav Guests

SK0604040296 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0333 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA) — Vice- President Yi Chong-ok met and had a friendly talk with the delegation of the Federal Assembly of Yugoslavia led by Speaker of its Chamber of Citizens Radoman Bozovic [name as received] at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on Friday.

On hand were Yi Mong-ho, secretary general of the SPA [Supreme People's Assembly] Standing Committee, and Yugoslav Ambassador to Korea Ojukic Ljubomir.

The speaker said that though Yugoslavia and Korea are geographically far away from each other, they have long deepened understanding and developed friendly relations.

These friendly relations are based on the intimacy between the great leader of the Korean people President Kim Il-song and President Tito, Radoman Bozovic added.

He expressed thanks to His Excellency Kim Chong-il, who saw to it that understanding was expressed to the Yugoslav people in their efforts for the removal of the international isolation.

DPRK: Kim Chung-nin, Others Attend Meeting Marking Afforestation

SK0704080096 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0704 GMT 7 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 7 (KCNA) — A joint meeting of working people's organizations was held here on Saturday [6 April] 49 years after the great leader President Kim Il-song kindled the torchlight of afforestation on Munsu Hill and 39 years after the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il planted trees on Mt. Chang.

Present at the meeting were Vice Marshal of the Korean People's Army Paek Hak-rim, minister of public security; Kim Chung-nin, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea; and Kim Pok-sin, vice-premier of the Administration Council.

It was noted at the meeting that mountains and fields of the country have been covered with green foliage, the forestry resources further enriched and the looks of streets and villages renewed more beautifully, under the wise guidance of the party and the leader and thanks to the patriotic devotion of the entire working people.

It put stress on the task of making the country and the fatherland more prosperous by carrying through the far-reaching idea of land construction of the respected General Kim Chong-il and the party's policy of land administration.

After the meeting the participants planted a large number of trees on Munsu Hill.

DPRK: Yi Chong-ok, Hong Sok-hyok Attend Award Meeting 5 Apr

SK0804095096 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A meeting to award state commendations to participants of the national planning functionaries enthusiast meeting was held on 5 April at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and vice president; Comrade Hong Sok-hyong, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the State Planning Committee; and exemplary planning functionaries, participated in the meeting. [passage omitted on naming some people who were awarded state commendations]

DPRK: Leaders Attend Ceremony for Opening of Yun I-sang Museum

SK0704022096 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0100 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A ceremony for the opening of the Yun I-sang Museum was held on the spot on the morning of 1 April. [passage omitted on the description of the venue]

Present at the ceremony were Comrade Pak Song-chol, vice president and member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK]; Comrade Yang Hyong- sop, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; Comrade Chang Chol, vice premier of the Administration Council and minister of culture and art;

other functionaries concerned; and creators and artists of the culture and art sector.

Also present at the ceremony were Mrs. Yi Su-cha, wife of Mr. Yun I-sang; her daughter; and overseas Koreans who are staying in the socialist fatherland.

The ceremony began with the chorus of songs "General Kim Il-song" and "Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il."

During the ceremony, Chang Chol, vice premier of the Administration Council and minister of culture and art, delivered an opening address. [passage omitted on speeches by Chang Chol and Yi Su-cha on cultural achievements]

DPRK: Chang Chol, Others Attend Opening of Spring Art Festival

SK0704130496 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 7 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amid the seething longing for the great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song by our people, by the world's revolutionary people, and by men of culture and art, the 14th April Spring Friendship Art Festival opened on 7 April in Pyongyang, the capital of the DPRK. We will now carry a recorded broadcast on the news of the opening of the 14th April Spring Friendship Art Festival. [passage omitted describing the site of the opening ceremony of the 14th April Spring Friendship Art Festival, the 25 April Cultural Hall, and the names of the art troupes from various countries]

Comrade Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and vice president; Comrade Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice premier of the Administration Council, and foreign minister; Comrade Chang Chol, chairman of the Organizing Committee of the festival, vice premier of the Administration Council, and minister of culture and art; Kang Hyon-su, responsible secretary of the WPK Pyongyang Municipal Committee and chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee; Kim Myong-nam, first vice minister of culture and art; and other functionaries concerned appeared at the rostrum. [passage omitted on Chang Chol's opening speech, Pak Song-chol's congratulatory speech, and speeches made by heads of delegations from various countries]

South Korea

ROK, U.S. Presidents To Discuss DPRK Armistice Move at Summit

SK0604105796 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0800 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned that during their summit scheduled for 16 April, President Kim Yong-sam and U.S. President Clinton will decide on an appropriate level of chastisement [ungjing] regarding North Korea's attempt to make the Armistice Agreement ineffective.

Revealing as much, a government authority stated that the content of the chastisement [ungjing] will include an expression by the ROK and the United States that they regard North Korea's attempts to make the Armistice Agreement ineffective as a grave challenge. It will also include a strong warning that both sides will by no means remain mere spectators regarding this matter.

This official also revealed that during the upcoming summit, the emphasis will be all the more on firmly elucidating at home and abroad the U.S. defense pledge toward the Korean peninsula. Also to be discussed in depth are the unchanging U.S. role as a balance in East Asian security; the announcement of new security [as heard] between the United States and Japan; and U.S.-PRC relations, including the Taiwan situation.

ROK: Foreign Minister, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Armistice Issue

SK0604064096 Seoul YONHAP in English 0631 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP) — Foreign Minister Kong No-myong and U.S. Ambassador to Seoul James Laney met Saturday to express concerns over North Korea declaring the nullification of the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement and advancing some of its armed troops into the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in stark violation of the treaty.

Kong and Laney also reaffirmed that Seoul and Washington would maintain strong allied defense readiness against North Korea, a Foreign Ministry official said.

During the 40-minute meeting, the foreign minister stressed that his government would deal sternly with any military provocation from the North in connection with the North's attempt to nullify the armistice.

Laney, meanwhile, emphasized the need to develop a joint front against the North in thwarting its attempt to violate the DMZ.

Both officials also spoke on the agenda to be discussed at the upcoming summit April 16 between President

Kim Yong-sam and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Cheju island, just before Clinton's visit to Tokyo on the same day.

South Korea presented three major items to be discussed at the Kim-Clinton summit, although specific topics could also be decided by the two presidents themselves, the official said.

The recent political, military and economic situations in North Korea and their implications on the security of Northeast Asia, as well as on the Korean peninsula, will be a major topic at the meeting, the official said.

The North's recent attempt to nullify the 1953 armistice treaty will also be discussed at the talks.

The two leaders will also try to coordinate their positions on Washington's new Asia strategic initiative and Tokyo's national security program outline. Both policies will be embodied in the new Washington-Tokyo security declaration, which will be announced at the summit meeting between Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

Clinton is expected to explain the new security declaration and Kim will comment on it from Seoul's perspective.

Sino-U.S. relations, which have tremendous influence over the Korean peninsula as witnessed during the recent crisis across the Taiwan strait, will also be discussed.

Both heads of state will discuss the impact of such relations on the Korean peninsula and South Korea's role in improving them.

ROK: Government May Ask U.S. To Cease All Contact With North

SK0704001596 (Internet) The Digital Choson Ilbo WWW in English 1204 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is learned that in the event that acts by the North destructive of the Armistice Agreement become any more serious, the Korean government will formally request the U.S. government to cease all contact with the North.

An official of the Foreign Ministry said that "Should the offensives on the part of North destructive of the Armistice Agreement intensify to the degree that they are provocative of a local war, U.S. contact with the North can no longer remain intact and unaffected".

In an independent move, the government is to request the U.S. government at the Working Conference scheduled to take place Monday in Washington between the two countries, to exclude all political issues from the agenda in the U.S.-North missiles talks scheduled to take place at the end of this month.

ROK: Firm Attitude, Resolve to North's 'Provocation' Urged

SK0704002596 (Internet) The Digital Choson Ilbo WWW in English 1158 GMT 6 Apr 96

[Editorial: "Firm Response To North Provocation Needed"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The North is being provocative. The North has declared that it no longer respects the status of the de-militarized zone after deploying a company of armed troops in the joint security area in Panmunjom. At the same time, the North deems to hold us responsible for intensifying the threat of war. This is not a one-off ploy by the North to draw the US into agreeing to a peace accord, rather the problem is more serious and the North's stance foretells repeated provocation in the future.

However, the North is not going to achieve what it wants by resorting to such intimidation. US President Clinton already firmly pledged in the US' summit talks held last year with us that it will not replace the Armistice agreement by entering into a bi-lateral peace accord with the North. Furthermore, the US is hardly likely to be minded to jointly agree anything with a nation branded as a US dollar counterfeiter.

It is not hard to guess that the irrational provocative behaviour on the North's part is a disguise to cover up the problems associated with the systemic collapse of its administration now taking place. If the North, which cannot properly function in its current state of food and energy crisis, continues to engage in provocative conduct which is in any way contemplative of war, then it will undoubtedly bring about its own self-destruction.

However, the prediction of war cannot be made on the basis of a calculation of national power and military strength alone. There have been many instances in history where war has resulted from the subjective resolve of one man alone. Today's leaders of the North, like those of Japan just prior to World War Two, can fairly be classed as mad. The North's Minister for Defence, Choe Kwang, was, in the late 60s when he was Chief of Staff, materially connected with a number of provocative incidents that defied common sense, such as the January 21 guerrilla assassination attempt on then President Pak and the seizure of the US intelligence vessel, The USS Pueblo. Perhaps the recent intimidation on the part of the North is connected with Choe's leadership.

Accordingly, we must not, as in the past, take a weak reactive stance to the North's acts of provocation. Rather, we must adopt a firm attitude and resolve. We cannot afford to adhere to the immature policy of the past whereby we have placated problems caused by the North by the simple concessional acceptance of its unreasonable demands and illogical claims, rather we must alter our stance and adopt an active, pre-emptive policy towards the North.

ROK: Dailies View Recent DPRK Military Movements

SK0704113196

[FBIS Report] The following is a compilation of editorials and articles carried in Seoul vernacular newspapers on 7 April pertaining to recent military moves and "provocations" by the DPRK in the demilitarized zone [DMZ] following the statement by a spokesman for the Panmunjom Mission of the Korean People's Army [KPA] on giving up its duties of maintaining and controlling the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] and the DMZ.

The conservative CHOSON ILBO publishes on page 3 a 1,100-word editorial entitled "North Korea Is Provoking." The editorial denounces North Korea's recent mobilization into the joint security area [JSA] of a company-sized unit of heavily armed troops as "an act bereft of reason" and stresses that such provocations are not "one-time incidents of playing with fire" merely intended to achieve a peace agreement with the United States, but will be repeated with more intensity. Noting that North Korea's unreasonable provocations are aimed at diverting public attention away from "the crisis in its system" and toward other areas, the editorial writes that such "a cunning trick" will no longer work with the people, stressing that "if North Korea, unable to properly manage its own nation due to shortages of food and energy, commits provocations that risk war, then it will certainly face self-destruction." The editorial adds that the military has become prominent since Kim Il-song's death, and that Choe Kwang, who was nominated as a minister of North Korea's People's Armed Forces, took the initiative in various military provocations, including the incident involving the U.S.S. Pueblo. Thus, North Korea's recent provocations are linked to its military leadership. The editorial concludes by urging the government not to pursue an idle North Korean policy, but to resort to a more positive one with firm will and determination.

CHOSON ILBO also carries on the same page another editorial under the headline "How Is Our Own International Situation?" The editorial notes that recently people are paying less attention to the nation's security, and some even claim that "North Korea cannot engage in military provocations because of its economic situation." The editorial deplores the fact that domestic political leaders are only engrossed with the power struggle, without knowing who their "main enemy" is, and that they are calculating "who will be favored and who disadvantaged by North Korea's provocations during the upcoming general elections." Branding this "a nation-ruining trend and a foolish idea," the editorial calls on political leaders to "assume a supra-partisan and pan-national stance in order to deter war," and calls on the people to show "a resolute will to resist provocations by North Korea, our main enemy."

The moderate HANGUK ILBO carries on page 3 a 1,100-word editorial entitled "We Should Coolly Cope With North Korea's Violence." Noting the Korean peninsula is "frozen" due to North Korea's reckless and aggressive military provocations, made amid the danger of a clash, the editorial supports the government for expressing its strong will for countermeasures by holding the National Security Council meeting. The editorial observes that the provocations are intended to attribute the people's wavering support for the North, caused such economic difficulties as shortages of food and energy, to "South Korea's attempt to invade the North"; they are also intended to demonstrate Kim Chong-il's "great leadership" in the wake of his official succession to power. North Korea seeks to press the United States to conclude a peace agreement, replacing the Armistice Agreement. The editorial writes that with North Korea's attitude of "lawlessness" and its aggravated internal situation, North Korea may commit any act at any time and trigger a war, a local war if not a total war. The editorial emphasizes that it is urgent for the government to keenly watch North Korea's movements under close military cooperation with the United States in order to assume a posture for immediate countermeasures; to propose the adoption of the North Korea issue as an urgent agenda at the UN Security Council; and to cooperate with our important allies, including our four neighboring countries.

HANGUK ILBO also publishes on page 3 a 1,200-word article by reporter Chang In-chol entitled "North Korea's Intentions for Continued Provocations." Describing North Korea's declaration of its will not to comply with the Armistice Agreement as "a calculated act to seek comprehensive effects at home and abroad," the article observes this act is designed to put its own internal situation under control; to pressure the United States to create an atmosphere favorable for concluding a tentative agreement in the wake of the U.S.-DPRK missile talks; and to break up the cooperative system among those nations surrounding Korea, including the

ROK, the United States, and Japan. Thus, North Korea's provocations are estimated to be "intentional." Pointing to North Korea's past attempts to nullify the Armistice Agreement, the article writes that North Korea began to threaten the armistice system more offensively and drastically after it proposed a DPRK-U.S. tentative agreement on 22 February, stressing that "if the United States does not respond to the proposal for a tentative agreement, North Korea will take the final and initiative step." On the other hand, North Korea's provocations are also aimed at "causing social confusion and a split in public opinion in the ROK by creating tension at a delicate time when the ROK faces general elections."

The moderate CHUNGANG ILBO publishes on page 6 a 1,000-word editorial under the headline "We Should Thoroughly Deal With North Korea's Playing With Fire." Describing North Korea's recent military moves as a "provocative act to heighten the military crisis by going beyond simple violations of the Armistice Agreement," the editorial points out the danger of worst-case military clashes occurring following North Korea's scrapping of the Armistice Agreement. The editorial also writes that North Korea's "Armistice Agreement card," which was initially intended to produce contacts with the United States, has now become very "complicated," possessing a political nature that will tide over unrest within its own system and to unite its people. Since the United States showed "a resolute position" not to directly meet North Korea to discuss a peace agreement, North Korea will continue to put its threats into action, including conducting military training within the DMZ, hindering patrol missions by ROK Army troops, removing military demarcation markers, firing crew-served weapons, hijacking ROK fishing boats, and the like. Emphasizing that North Korea's threats should not be underestimated in the fever of the upcoming elections in the ROK, the editorial urges all the people to "coolly and resolutely" cope with them.

CHUNGANG ILBO also carries on page 3 a 1,100-word article by reporter Kim Min-sok entitled "Why Did North Korea Deploy Armed Troops Into Panmunjom?" Pointing to "tensions" created along the armistice line following North Korea's steps to nullify the armistice system, the article writes that recent provocations are different from past maneuvers to nullify the Armistice Agreement because recent provocations have the nature of "a total renouncement of the Armistice Agreement" and are aimed at "realizing direct military contacts between North Korea and the United States" in order to secure a favorable positions in the missile talks and the negotiations to improve relations with the United States and Japan. In addition, North Korea is seeking to bring the United States to the talks to conclude a peace agreement. The article predicts DPRK- U.S. direct military contacts will be "rejected" because the ROK and United States insist that the current Armistice Agreement is still effective and that DPRK-United Nations contacts should be maintained through the Military Armistice Commission.

The moderate TONG-A ILBO carries on page 3 a 1,200-word editorial entitled "North Korea's War Threat." Pointing to "threats and undisguised military provocations by North Korea," the editorial observes that the reason for its threats is "to prevent a wavering within its own system from taking place by creating tensions between North and South Korea." In addition, North Korea seeks to conclude a DPRK-U.S. peace agreement by excluding the ROK, using its threats as a means to pressure the United States, because North Korea believes that "if the war atmosphere is heightened on the Korean peninsula, the United States will turn up at DPRK-U.S. peace negotiations despite opposition from the ROK." However, the editorial stresses that North Korea's declaration of non-recognition of the DMZ "will only evoke denunciations by the international community." The editorial urges the government to "coolly cope with North Korea's war threats" and to assume a tight alert posture to block any military provocation by North Korea.

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN publishes on page 2 a 1,100-word article by reporter Yi Tae-kun entitled "North Korea's Intentions To Heighten Tensions in the DMZ." Noting North Korea will continue to violate the Armistice Agreement for the time being since it thinks "the strained atmosphere on the Korean peninsula will work favorably for its future negotiations with the United States," the article writes that despite this, North Korea will "adjust the degree of tensions to an appropriate level." North Korea will also show a gesture of reconciliation for North-South dialogue in order to display its "efforts toward dialogue" rather than "practical improvement of North-South relations." The article points out the possibility that the United States may assume the take the situation on the Korean peninsula as the occasion to make the ROK change its policy toward North Korea, and that a series of negotiations with North Korea following the ROK general election will be "a stage to try out the cooperative system between the ROK, the United States, and Japan.

The left-leaning HANGYORE SINMUN carries on page 3 a 1,200-word editorial entitled "North Korea Should Stop Its Provocative Acts." Describing recent North Korea's act as "provocations that hard to understand," the editorial reiterates the "violent remarks" by North Korean officials and shows concern about the possibility of an abrogation of the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework. Expressing the hope that acts creating tensions on the Korean peninsula should be prevented, the editorial warns that North Korea will gain nothing from a military confrontation between North and South Korea, stressing that North Korea's call to conclude a peace agreement with the United States in exclusion of the ROK, which is a party concerned, will not be accepted. The editorial urges North Korea to realize that "it will gain nothing by creating tensions along the armistice line and to immediately stop its unnecessary military threats."

ROK, U.S. Reportedly Discussing Introduction of AWACs

SK0704231596 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2200 GMT 7 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The ROK and the United States are discussing the introduction of AWACs into areas of the Korean peninsula. Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho revealed that since heavily- armed troops of the North Korean Army have staged a demonstration of its Armed Forces in the area of Panmunjom for three consecutive days, military tensions are heightened on the Korean peninsula. In this regard, the ROK is discussing with the U.S. side the plan to introduce AWACs into the Korean peninsula. This aircraft is capable of detecting signs of North Korea's provocations in advance.

The United States houses AWACs in its base in Okinawa, Japan. This aircraft is known to have the capability of precisely detecting the moves of all airplanes and vehicles within a 359-km radius.

ROK: Article Views U.S., Regional Reaction to DPRK Moves

SK0804034996 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 8 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Yi Sung-chol]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amid the heightened tension on the Korean peninsula following North Korea's deployment of large numbers of armed troops in Panmunjom, four big neighboring countries, including the United States, are reported to be exercising strong diplomatic pressure on North Korea in a bid to make it stop the provocations.

On 7 April, a relevant government official said: Neighboring countries that can exercise diplomatic influence on North Korea are calling on North Korea through diplomatic channels to desist in its move to abrogate the Armistice Agreement.

The official revealed that "the United States and Russia, in particular, are sending strong messages to North Korea through all possible routes. In the meantime, other countries, including Japan and China, are also playing their respective roles."

It has been learned that through the existing channel of contact between Jeffrey Goldstein, official in charge of North Korean affairs; and Han Song-yol, counselor in the North Korean mission to the United Nations, the United States continues sending messages to North Korea containing the resolute will to chastise [ungjing] North Korea in the event that the U.S. demand for an immediate end to its move to abrogate the Armistice Agreement is not accepted and that it commits additional provocations.

As for Russia, as soon as North Korea announced its abrogation of the Armistice Agreement on 4 April, Russia explicitly showed its opposition. Besides, Russia plans to send Vice Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov to North Korea on 10 April to discuss the issue of North Korea's abrogation of the Armistice Agreement with the North Korean side.

The relevant government official stated that "China is keeping silent publicly, merely expressing its principled position considering its relations with North Korea. However, in actuality, China informed North Korea through individual contact channels that the move to abrogate the Armistice Agreement is not at all in North Korea's best interests."

As for Japan, it was learned that and the Workers Party Japan has already sent a message to North Korea through a channel of contact between the Liberal Democratic Party, a message containing a strong demand for an end to its provocative acts.

ROK Reportedly Asks U.S., Japan for Prudence in DPRK Contacts

SK0804070696 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 8 Apr 96 p 1

[By reporter Chang In-chol]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned on 7 April that the ROK Government has requested the United States and Japan to be prudent in their contacts with North Korea slated for this month, judging that the DPRK's provocation against the armistice mechanism, such as the incursion of North Korea's heavily-armed troops into Panmunjom, is seriously impairing the atmosphere for improving inter-Korean relations, which is a precondition for U.S.-DPRK and Japan-DPRK rapprochement.

It is also reported that the ROK Government is actively urging the United States and Japan to jointly cooperate in coping with the successive provocations by the DPRK.

This position of the ROK Government was first discussed at the ROK-U.S.-Japanese high-level political consultative meeting, which ended in Hawaii on 7 April. It is expected that this ROK position will be conveyed more specifically at U.S.-ROK working-level negotiations slated to be held in Washington on 8 April, which is held prior to U.S.-DPRK missile talks.

A Foreign Ministry official said: Taking advantage of the current situation, North Korea may try to intensify its attempt to expand the agenda of the missile talks. Therefore, we need to reconfirm our position to the U.S. side that the missile talks should be limited to North Korea's missile development and exports, which is the original agenda of the talks.

It has been learned that at the high-level political consultative meeting held in Hawaii, the ROK side requested that Japan refrain from contacting North Korea until this current development of the situation is resolved, in connection with the recent brisk contact between North Korea and Japan aimed at resuming talks to establish diplomatic relations, including the North Korean Workers Party delegation's visit to Japan.

ROK, U.S. Said To Examine Withholding 'All' U.S.-DPRK Talks

SK0804103896 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0800 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In the event North Korea's illegal military show of force exceeds the limit, the ROK and the United States will examine imposing strong pressure, including an adjustment of the overall timetable for the improvement of U.S.- North Korean relations. A government official said that such measures will be discussed with priority at a prior consultation for the U.S.-North Korea missile talks to be held in Washington tonight Korean Standard Time.

The official said that tonight's meeting between Song Min-sun of the Americas Division of the ROK Foreign Ministry, and Einhorn, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state, will examine withholding all U.S.-North Korean talks, including talks on missiles and MIA remains as one of the measures, depending on future North Korean attitude. The official added that strong pressures can be sought through close cooperation between the ROK and the United States, including the postponement of additional relaxation of economic sanctions against North Korea.

ROK: Armed DPRK Troops Enter Panmunjom Joint Security Area 5 Apr

SK0604015596 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0100 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Defense Ministry and the UN Forces Command revealed today that around 1800 [0900 GMT] on 5 April, approximately 120 North Korean armed soldiers entered the Joint Security Area [JSA] in Panmunjom and later retreated to North Korea.

The North Korean soldiers reportedly staged an exercise which consisted of installing a 60-mm mortar, two recoiless guns, and four machine guns between the No. 1 and No. 2 guard posts and near the No. 5 guard post on the North side.

The North Korean Army retreated to its side around 2030 [1130 GMT], after winding up the two-hour-long exercise.

In response, the UN Forces Command immediately put a security battalion inside the JSA in Panmunjom on alert and deployed all its troops to our side's three guard posts.

The UN Forces Command interpreted North Korea's move as a way of creating tension in this area.

ROK: UN Command Reports DPRK Armed Troops Entered JSA 5 Apr

SK0604032096 Seoul YONHAP in English 0258 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP) — A company of North Korean troops armed with mortars and machineguns moved into the northern sector of the Joint Security Area (JSA) of Panmunjom and stayed there for two and a half hours Friday, the United Nations Command (UNC) in Korea reported Saturday.

The command said about 130 armed troops strode into the Panmunjom area around 6 PM [0900 GMT] and retreated at around 8:30 PM [1130 GMT].

The armistice agreement prohibits the introduction of other firearms than revolvers into the JSA.

At about 6 PM the North Koreans brought a 60mm mortar to a point located between guardposts no. 1 and no. 2 near the Panmun-gak Pavilion in the North Korea-controlled section of the JSA, and set up a temporary encampment there, UNC officers said.

At around 6:30 PM, about 110 troops carrying individual firearms were moved into the encampment. The troops were armed with two RPG [rocket-propelled grenade]-7 40mm anti-tank guns and four light machineguns, officers said. At about that time, another group of some 20 soldiers carrying individual firearms and 82mm recoilless rifles were deployed to guardpost no. 5 near the "72-Hour Bridge" in the western JSA, they said.

Some 30 of the troops retreated from the JSA across the "72-hour bridge" at about 8 PM and about 30 minutes later the remaining troops also pulled back with their heavy weapons.

The UN Command reacted by alerting its Panmunjom security battalion at about 6:40 PM and deployed fully armed troops at its three outposts near Panmunjom, the report said.

The 120 North Korean troops did not use designated armbands at all, it said, also in violation of the military armistice agreement.

The presence of armed North Korean soldiers in the northern sector of the truce village area came one day after Pyongyang declared they would abandon their duties regarding the maintenance of the demilitarized zone.

Military authorities said Saturday that no indications of armistice agreement violations were detected in other demilitarized zone areas outside of Panmunjom.

"It seems that North Korea sent armed troops to Panmunjom in an attempt to render the truce agreement powerless," a senior military officer said. "We also suspect the action was aimed at both training in positioning of armed troops and fomenting tension."

A platoon of about 30 or 40 North Korean soldiers armed with AK rifles were also deployed to the northern sector of the Panmunjom Joint Security Area last Feb. 20 and 22, a source at the military authorities said.

ROK: President To Convene Emergency Security Meeting 6 Apr

SK0604031996 Seoul YONHAP in English 0104 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam will convene an emergency National Security Council meeting at 3 PM [0600 GMT] Saturday to discuss the military tension in and around the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

The meeting will closely scrutinize Pyongyang's declaration on Thursday that it is going to abandon its duty of jointly controlling the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and its moving on Friday of armed soldiers into the joint security area in the truce village of Panmunjom, informed sources said.

ROK: Anti-Communist Group Urges Strong Measures Against North

SK0604045196 Seoul YONHAP in English 0439 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP) — An anti-communist civic organization urged Saturday "strong" readiness to counter possible military provocation by North Korea.

The Korea Freedom League, in a statement regarding North Korea's declaration on Thursday that it is abandoning its duty of jointly controlling the Demilitarized Zone, blasted Pyongyang's move as "an act clearly revealing its greedy intent to communize' the entire Korean peninsula."

The league pressed the government to spare no preparations in strengthening its defense capacity in order to frustrate any provocation by the North at its initial stage.

ROK: Opposition Parties Caution Government in Dealings With DPRK

SK0604050796 Seoul YONHAP in English 0457 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP) — Opposition parties on Saturday invariably urged the government to be cool and circumpsect in dealing with the tension precipitated by North Korea's renouncement of its duty regarding the Demilitarized Zone.

The National Congress for New Politics said government authorities should not lose their cool and must deal with the situation rationally.

"We regret the latest North Korean movement. Still, our party's basic position is that the realization of genuine democratization is the only way to dissolve tension on the Korean peninsula," Kim Han- kil, spokesman of the major opposition party's election campaign headquarters, said.

Yi Pu-yong, a supreme member of the Democratic Party, said "We should not over-react to the incident or it will appear as if there is a serious threat to the nation's security."

He explained that it appears certain that North Korea is conspiring to instigate direct negotiations with the United States.

The United Liberal Democrats [ULD] have also called on the government to deal with the situation carefully so as not to give the North Koreans an excuse for an outright provocation against the South.

"We suspect that the latest North Korean movement is part of their scheme to bring about direct military talks and a peace agreement with the United States over the heads of South Korea," Yi Tong-pok, spokesman for the ULD election campaign headquarters, said.

ROK: UNC Fails To Contact DPRK; No Plans for Additional Protest

SK0604071596 Seoul YONHAP in English
0659 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP) — The United Nations Command (UNC) said Saturday that it had failed to get in touch with North Korea through an orderly officer of the UNC's Military Armistice Commission (MAC) early in the morning to protest against about 110 heavily armed North Korean troops' moving into the Joint Security Area (JSA) in the truce village of Panmunjom Friday.

Through the officer of the day, the UNC explained, it had tried to protest to the North that the commitment of the soldiers armed with mortars and machineguns to Panmunjom was a clear-cut violation of the Korean cease-fire agreement, but to no avail. Because the North rejected the very contact, the UNC said.

The UNC added that it has no additional plan to get in touch with the North to make the protest.

ROK: Kim Yong-sam Orders 'Iron-Tight' Posture Against DPRK

SK0604090396 Seoul YONHAP in English
0855 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam has ordered his cabinet to maintain an iron-tight defense posture against North Korea, given the North's recent outspoken threats of provocations against the South.

The head of state made the instruction at an emergency meeting of the National Security Council (NSC) summoned Saturday afternoon at Chongwadae [presidential offices] concerning the North's announcement of virtually nullifying the 1953 Armistice Agreement and introduction of its heavily armed soldiers into the Joint Security Area of Panmunjom.

President Kim pointed out that a series of moves recently made by North Korea completely differ from previous ones in kind, and are intentional provocative acts according to a willful and long-term conception.

"We (South Korean) army have capabilities and confidence to immediately drive back any North Korean provocations on the foundation of the firm Seoul-U.S. military cooperative system," the chief executive stressed. Thus, Kim requested, people devote themselves to their jobs without getting disturbed by any kind of intimidations or provocations by the North.

It was the third time for the president to convene the emergency NSC meeting in accordance with the Article 91 of the Constitution. The first meeting was held in June 1994 over North Korea's nuclear issue and the second one immediately after the death of Kim Il-song July 9 the same year.

Meanwhile, attendants at the Saturday meeting included Prime Minister Yi Su-sung, Vice Prime Ministers Na Ung-pae and Kwon O-ki, Foreign Minister Kong No-myong, Home Minister Kim U-sok, Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho, State Minister for Political Affairs Chu Ton-sik, Agency for National Security Planning Director Kwon Yong-hae and Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Kim Tong-chin.

ROK: DPRK Official on Replacing Armistice With Peace Agreement

SK0604104296 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network
in Korean 1000 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A high-ranking official of the North Korean mission to the United Nations revealed that North Korea's announcement that it will give up its duties related to the maintaining and managing the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ] is aimed at replacing the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement.

In an interview with the KYODO News Agency, this official stated North Korea is pursuing peaceful security on the Korean peninsula, and that it has been proposing the conclusion of a new peace agreement to replace the Armistice Agreement.

This official also emphasized that North Korea does not want war, thus discarding views by some observers that military provocations by the North Korean People's Army will increase due to North Korea's decision.

ROK: KYODO Cites DPRK Official on Replacing Armistice

OW0604113196 Tokyo KYODO in English
0350 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 6 KYODO — South Korean President Kim Yong-sam will convene an emergency national Security Council meeting at 3 P.M. Saturday to discuss the military tension in and around the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea, YONHAP News Agency reported.

The meeting will closely scrutinize Pyongyang's declaration that it is going to abandon its duty of jointly controlling the demilitarized zone and its moving of armed soldiers into the joint security area, YONHAP quoted informed sources as saying.

Kim convened the first such meeting in June 1994 when the North Korean nuclear situation reached a critical stage and a second meeting July 9 the same year, a day after the death of North Korean President Kim Il-song.

The U.N. command said some 130 North Korean troops armed with mortars and machine guns moved into the northern sector of the joint security area of the truce village of Panmunjom and stayed there for two and a half hours Friday in violation of the armistice.

At 6 P.M., the North Koreans brought a 60 mm mortar into the North Korea-controlled section of the joint security area and set up a temporary encampment, a move that was followed about 30 minutes later by the entry of some 110 troops carrying firearms into the encampment, the command said.

Another 20 armed soldiers were deployed in the western joint security area. All the troops withdrew by 8:30 P.M., the command said.

The movement came after North Korea announced Thursday that it will no longer observe the rules governing the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea.

The armistice agreement prohibits the introduction of firearms other than revolvers in the area.

The South Korean Defense Ministry said Friday that South Korea- U.S. combined forces have upgraded their intelligence alert status following North Korea's announcement.

In Washington, a Pentagon official also revealed Friday that a group of armed North Korean soldiers have entered the joint security zone in violation of the armistice.

The official said the North Korean soldiers stopped wearing the arm bands required for controlling the movement of people in the area and also disregarded regulations limiting weapons to one rifle and one revolver per person.

The official said that the significance of the move was not of the nature of military purposes but rather a "political gesture" by Pyongyang demonstrating that it no longer considers the armistice binding.

The official said the North Korean moves were not unprecedented but were extremely unusual, indicating that Washington is alarmed over the recent development in the wake of the north's announcement that it would no longer observe the demilitarized zone along the inter-Korean border.

A state department spokesman Friday denounced North Korea's stance as extremely backward-looking and called on Pyongyang to honor the armistice framework.

On Thursday, a spokesman for the Panmunjom mission of the Korean People's Army announced that North Korea "shall give up its duty, under the armistice agreement, concerning the maintenance and control of the military demarcation line and demilitarized zone."

In New York, a senior official at North Korea's U.N. Representative office said Friday its announcement that North Korea will no longer observe the rules governing the demilitarized zone is aimed at replacing the armistice agreement with a peace treaty.

The official told KYODO News that his country is seeking peaceful stability in the Korean peninsula and has been proposing a new peace treaty to replace the armistice agreement that ended the 1950-53 Korean war, dividing the two Koreas.

He said North Korea does not want war and he set aside speculation that the North Korean decision will expand military provocation by North Korea's People's Army.

North Korea has urged the replacement of the armistice, signed in July 1953 between North Korea, China and the U.S.-led forces, with a peace treaty with the United States but the U.S. has refused negotiations with North Korea on a peace treaty.

The South Korean Government is considering making an emergency proposal to the U.N. Security Council to discuss the North Korean troops movement, YONHAP said by quoting government officials.

The U.N. forces stationed in South Korea will also submit an emergency report on the matter to the Security Council soon, the officials said.

ROK: Editorial Urges 'Diplomatic Might' in Dealing With DPRK

SK0604122396 Seoul MUNHWA ILBO in Korean 6 Apr 96 p 11

[Editorial: "Through Our Diplomatic Might, Let's Urge the North To Show Self-Restraint"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 4 April, North Korea issued a one-sided statement that it will in reality scrap the 1953 Armistice Agreement, saying: "We will give up the duties of maintaining and managing the Military Demarcation Line and the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ]."

Such a North Korean attitude is quite unreasonable and inappropriate, running counter to international law and the fundamental rules of international society. We have been accustomed to North Korea's "strategy of standing on the edge of a precipice" in connection with the nuclear issue. However, the nuclear issue and Armistice Agreement issue are different. The Armistice Agreement was concluded between North Korea and the concerned parties of the United Nations, that is, the United Nations Command, of which the ROK is a member. According to international law, this is a treaty in a broad sense. Thus, no one side can unilaterally scrap this international treaty; to scrap the agreement, it is necessary for the parties concerned to negotiate and agree on scrapping it.

Regarding North Korea's threat of a few days ago about being on "the eve of war," we truly urge North Korea to show self-restraint; we feel this may be a scheme to coerce the United States to conclude a peace agreement. However, right after the announcement, the chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly made the same threat by saying "war is inevitable" and "we will crush the enemy." In this regard, there are suspicions that imminent abnormal symptoms have arisen within the North Korean system. Thus, this may be an extreme measure to conclude a peace agreement with the United States. However, when viewed from the inappropriate and unrealistic act of scrapping the Armistice Agreement, such remarks cannot be made unless something wrong is going on within the system. This can be speculated on from the fact that North Korea's allies, Russia and the PRC, are requesting Pyongyang to exercise self-restraint regarding its war threats and to abide by the Armistice Agreement.

We hope the worst case scenario does not come about. However, there is a danger that North Korea may commit localized provocations in the future, such as when it introduced one company into the northern sector of Panmunjom on 5 April. As a result, the government upgraded its alert status to Watch Con 2. Moreover, we hope full self-defense measures will be made for the general elections scheduled for next week.

The best way is to strengthen our diplomatic might and apply international pressure and influence so that North Korea will exercise self-restraint. Neighboring countries, including Japan, Russia, and the PRC, recognize that the peace system on the Korean peninsula is important and essential for security and peace in this region. If possible, the government can summon an international meeting of neighboring countries to seek effective international methods.

It is also important to further strengthen the ROK-U.S. defense treaty. It is necessary to reconfirm the United States' firm defense pledge toward the ROK during President Clinton's 16 April visit to the ROK. More than anything else, we repeatedly ask North Korea to regain its reason, restrain from acts that create an unnecessarily tense situation, and abide by the Armistice Agreement.

ROK: DPRK Again Commits 'Heavily-Armed' Soldiers to JSA 6 April

SK0604142296 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1347 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned that at approximately 1900 [1000 GMT] this evening, some 200 heavily-armed [chungmujang] North Korean soldiers riding in nine trucks entered the North side's sector of Panmunjom's Joint Security Area [JSA], being committed to the North Korean guard posts.

The following is a report by Yi Sung-hwan:

[Begin Yi recording] I am at the Defense Ministry. It was learned that this evening about 200 North Korean soldiers were once again committed to the JSA of Panmunjom. These heavily-armed [chungmujang] North Korean soldiers entered the North side's sector of the JSA in nine trucks at approximately 1900 [1000 GMT]. They were still there as of 2200 [1300 GMT].

The scale of the North Korean soldiers committed to the North side's sector of the JSA of Panmunjom and the types of weapons they are carrying have not been accurately identified, although it was confirmed that there are at least more than 10 soldiers. At approximately 2000 [1100 GMT], it was observed that they were committed to the North Korean guard posts.

Earlier, on 4 April, North Korea committed about 130 heavily armed North Korean soldiers to the North side's sector of the JSA of Panmunjom. At that time, five North Korean army trucks were seen. Thus, it is estimated that the number of North Korean soldiers committed today will total about 200. [end recording]

ROK: Radio Reports DPRK Soldiers Withdraw From JSA

SK0604154296 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1500 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned that shortly after 5 April, North Korean soldiers once again committed armed soldiers into Panmunjom on 6 April. The Defense Ministry revealed that around 1900 [1000 GMT] on 6 April, about 260 North Koreans crossed the 72-Hour Bridge situated on the west side of Panmunjom, riding in nine trucks, and installed trench mortars between the first and second guard posts on the North side of Panmunjom. They were carrying four trench mortars, five machine-guns, and one 82mm recoilless rifle.

The North Korean forces stayed in Panmunjom for three hours and 20 minutes. Some forces then began withdrawing on foot at around 2150 [1250 GMT]; it was confirmed that the last truck withdrew at 2220 [1320 GMT].

In this regard, the ROK military officially announced a state of emergency regarding the Joint Security Area at approximately 1906 [1006 GMT] and ordered that the neighboring First Division be prepared for reinforced mobilization.

The ROK military authorities also ordered the neighboring division to be prepared to offer firing assistance [sakyok chiwon], and at around 1920 [1020 GMT], the alert status was all the more strengthened, odering operating units under each division to prepare to deal with a possible emergency.

ROK: Editorial Criticizes Security 'Subordinated' To Political Fighting

SK0704004996 (Internet) The Digital Chosun Ilbo WWW in English 1159 GMT 6 Apr 96

[Editorial: "Forgotten Enemy?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The authoritarians of the past accorded democracy secondary importance under the banner of promoting national security. However, now in this so-called "civilian" age, it is even more disenchanting that security is subordinated to worthless trivial political fighting. Both the civilian ruling and opposition party leaders of today, while apparently extolling the virtues of democratization, decry that "once democratization occurs, security will follow naturally as a result of ensuing national consensus". But what about today? Not once has the topic of security been the subject of any recent significant debate amongst political circles.

Recently, the election campaigns carried out by all politicians, including independents, have centered around dirty, dog-eat-dog self-interested power struggles. At the same time, politicians have too easily forgotten that the first and foremost political issue that exists on the peninsula is the life and death conflict between North authoritarianism and the peaceful democracy of the South.

While both ruling and opposition party politicians propound that the North is on the brink of economic collapse, in order not to provoke the North they willingly open the door for the North and gutlessly acquiesce to its demands and shout that, unlike days gone by, security is not an appropriate platform on which to base an election campaign. We cannot prevent war occurring with an enemy like the North by deploying weak tactics or adopting placative measures of days of old, rather we must demonstrate a strong spirit and adopt a stance which prepares us well for outbreak of war.

Despite this, our civilian political circles assess the provocation on the part of the North by calculating who is advantaged by it and who is disadvantaged. It is imperative that the people do not collapse into the all too easy consciousness of believing that "war is impossible" rather we ought to awaken ourselves to the need to adopt the old adage that "he who seeks death, achieves life" so that we may ensure the protection of not only our country but our home as well. We must demonstrate a firm resolve and will in response to the provocation on the part of the fanatical group that makes up the North, our greatest enemy.

ROK: Kim Yong-sam Asks People To Stay Undeterred by DPRK 'Intimidation'

SK0704013496 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 7 Apr 96 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Kim Yong-sam yesterday asked the people to lead their lives as usual, undeterred by the North Korean intimidation, saying that the nation's defense capability is strong enough to defend the peace and security of the nation.

In an emergency meeting of the National Security Council at 3 P.M. yesterday to discuss various policy options against the North Korean announcement not to honor its Demilitarized Zone [DMZ] duty, President Kim said he, as the supreme commander of the armed forces, would take due and sure action if provoked, according to participants.

However, the participants did not elaborate on what President Kim meant by "due and sure action."

The meeting of the National Security Council was the first since the last one convened soon after the death of Kim Il-song in July 1994.

President Kim made it clear in the meeting that the nation has long prepared itself for any contingencies provoked by the North, asking people to trust the government.

At the emergency meeting at Chongwadae [presidential offices], participants studied all possible ramifications of North Korea's Thursday announcement not to honor DMZ duties and the subsequent action of sending a band of heavily armed troops into the Joint Security Area Friday and pulling out of it two and a half hours later.

In the session, Kim gave special attention to a series of suspicious movements by North Korea, instructing the council members to take all the necessary measures so that the nation will be able to respond firmly to any North Korean provocations, according to the participants.

He said the series of "provocative" actions taken by North Korea is a long term scheme which is different in nature from the past ones.

Participants in the National Security Council meeting are Prime Minister Yi Su-song, Finance and Economy Minister Na Ung-pae, National Unification Minister Kwon O-ki, Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho, State Minister for Political Affairs Chu Ton-sik, Agency for National Security Planning Director Kwon Yong-hae, National Security Council chairman Pak Ik-sun, and Chairman of Joint Chief of Staff Kim Tong-chin.

A highly-placed source said the government will review its North Korea policy once the April 11 elections of lawmakers are over.

ROK: Defense Ministry Sees No 'Imminent' Threat From DPRK

SK0704084696 Seoul YONHAP in English 0823 GMT 7 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 7 (YONHAP) — The Defense Ministry said Sunday afternoon that there had been no evidence of North Korean troop movements along the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) that would suggest any imminent military threat.

Following North Korea's show of force by moving 130 and 260 armed soldiers into the Joint Security Area of Panmunjom Friday and Saturday in flagrant violation of the truce pact, South Korean and U.S. troops deployed along the DMZ have increased their surveillance level.

In particular, troops standing guard along the southern boundary of the DMZ were put on the heightened alert for any military provocation from the North, the ministry said.

In a related development, a UN Command [UNC] spokesman denied wire reports that the UNC Armistice Commission is trying to contact the North Korean People's Army to protest against the violation of the Armistice Agreement.

ROK: Official Opines DPRK's 'Armed Display' in DMZ Could Spread

SK0704095196 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0900 GMT 7 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that the government is seeking multi-sided countermeasures [tagakchogin taeungchaek], believing the armed display staged twice by the North Korean army in the Joint Security Area of Panmunjom will gradually expand all over the DMZ and to the sea.

Today, a high-level government authority stated that North Korea's attempt to paralyze the Armistice Agreement combined with its peace offensive—which is represented by the announcement it will no longer recognize the DMZ, armed displays held twice in the Joint Security Area of Panmunjom, and the control over the Beijing contact—is a high-level strategy that is proceeded with in accordance with a scheduled timetable.

The authority stated: Accordingly, the armed display in Panmunjom may expand to the entire DMZ and even to the sea. It is also possible North Korea will engage in a psychological war, firing blank shots to induce a preemptive strike by the South.

The authority added: If North Korea's armed display expands to the DMZ or to the sea, and if it develops into an intrusion of the Military Demarcation Line, the government will not overlook this.

In particular, the authority stressed: The government's stern position is that if North Korea commits an armed provocation in an area on or around the five islands in the West Sea [Yellow Sea] or in the DMZ, the government will immediately punish and retaliate, and the situation will soon develop into an all-out war [chukkak ungjing pobokhage toelgosimyo inun kot chonmyonjoni toelgot].

ROK: DPRK Commits 180 Armed Soldiers to Panmunjom 7 Apr

SK0704123096 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 7 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command [CFC] said that about 180 armed soldiers from North Korea were again committed to the Joint Security Area of Panmunjom for the third time at approximately 2005 [1105 GMT] on 7 April and are now conducting a position organization drill.

National Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho is now explaining the situation to reporters. We will report details before the end of this news program as soon as we receive further information from reporters who are covering this incident.

ROK: Further on 3d Incursion of DPRK Soldiers Into Panmunjom

SK0704133796 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1238 GMT 7 Apr 96

[Report by Yi Chun-hui from the National Defense Ministry]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that some 400 North Korean soldiers, whose size is equivalent to a battalion, which have been committed to Panmunjom, as of yet have not been withdrawn [panmunjomenun isigan hyonje pukhangun taedaegup kyumoin sabaegyomyongi tuiptoeso hyonjekkaji cholsuhaji ankoinnun kosuro ally-ojyossumnida].

The National Defense Ministry stated: Six small trucks and six large trucks carrying North Korean soldiers entered Panmunjom via the 72-Hour Bridge located west of Panmunjom at approximately 2000 [1100 GMT] on 7 April.

The number of North Korean soldiers committed to Panmunjom is estimated at 150. They are carrying two trench mortars, a machine- gun, and a recoilless gun. However, the size of the unit is estimated to be equivalent to a battalion of some 400 soldiers. [figures as heard]

According to the National Defense Ministry, the North Korean soldiers are now separately conducting a position organization drill [chinji pyonsong hullyon] at outpost Nos. 1, 2, and 5 in the northern sector of Panmunjom.

In this regard, our side immediately conveyed a state of emergency message to its security battalion at Panmunjom, and is now watching the moves by the North Korean Army, mobilizing a mobil strike unit from a neighboring army division.

An official of the Joint Chiefs of Staff expressed concern about the increasing number of North Korean troops being committed to Panmunjom since 5 April, and predicted that such armed displays by North Korea will last for a long time.

After receiving the report on the third commitment of armed North Korean soldiers into Panmunjom, National Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho immediately visited the Joint Chiefs of Staff Command Office and was briefed on the situation by the commander of the First Division and by the officers on emergency duty. He then directed them to take thorough countermeasures.

Minister Yi made an inspection tour of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Command Office, which has operated an early countermeasure team since North Korea announced its abrogation of the Armistice Agreement on 4 April, and asked our army to be put on iron-tight emergency alert as North Korea continues to conduct military acts that violate the Armistice Agreement in an area around Panmunjom.

ROK: Defense Ministry Reports DPRK Soldiers Withdraw From JSA

SK0704141896 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1400 GMT 7 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The North Korean armed soldiers, which were again committed to the Joint Security Area [JSA] of Panmunjom today, were all withdrawn at 2235 [1335 GMT] this evening.

The National Defense Ministry stated that six small trucks and six large trucks carrying North Korean soldiers were committed to Panmunjom via the 72-Hour Bridge located west of Panmunjom at around 2000 [1100 GMT] on 7 April. The North Korean soldiers, whose numbers were estimated at 230, carried two trench mortars, a machine-gun, and a recoilless gun. After conducting a position organization drill [chinji pyonsong hullyon] at outposts Nos. 1, 2, and 5 in the northern sector of Panmunjom, they were withdrawn at 2235 [1335 GMT] on 7 April.

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ROK: UN Command Cited on DPRK Troops in Panmunjom 7 Apr

SK0704234196 Seoul YONHAP in English 2327 GMT 7 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 8 (YONHAP) — North Korea on Sunday temporarily introduced troops and weapons into the northern portion of the Joint Security Area [JSA] of Panmunjom in violation of the Korean Armistice Agreement for the third night in a row, the UN Command said.

The 150-to-180 North Korean troops who entered the JSA at 8:05 PM for what appears to be reinforcement training activities withdrew from the northern section of the JSA at about 10:45 PM, the command announced.

The command said, in a press release issued around midnight, that JSA operations have returned to normal.

The troops and weapons involved in the latest movement exceeded the numbers and kinds authorized by the Armistice Agreement, the command said.

The UN Command said that there was no change in the strength, positions or activities of the North Korean military or South Korean elsewhere along the 151-mile-long Demilitarized Zone.

ROK: More on UN Command on DPRK Troops in JSA

SK0804004996 Seoul YONHAP in English 0041 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 8 (YONHAP) — The North Korean troops, upon entering the area, began conducting what appears to be reinforcement training activities, according to the command.

"While such training is normal in most militaries, conducting that training inside the JSA [Joint Security Area] is a significant violation of the 1953 Armistice Agreement," the command said.

The UNC [United Nations Command] "continues to watch the situation with serious concern but notes that these violations are not a cause for particular alarm," it added.

The UNC denied as "incorrect" reports that "alert" status for units assigned to the South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command has been issued.

"All forces assigned in the forward areas South of the Demilitarized Zone are always in a high state of readiness, but nothing in their readiness posture has changed from the standard high level that has been maintained here for many years," the command said.

Meanwhile, the South Korean Defense Ministry said that the North Korean troops entered the area through the "72-hour Bridge" aboard 12 small and large trucks. They emplaced two 60mm mortars, one 82mm recoilless rifle and one machine gun on encampments built Friday and Saturday.

A senior ministry official said that the troops appear to be from the Panmunjom garrison battalion stationed in Kaesong, a unit involved in the brutal axing to death of two U.S. officers on Aug. 18, 1976.

ROK: Reexamining Appeasement Policy Toward North Korea

SK0804005496 (Internet) The Joong-Ang Ilbo WWW in English 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The South Korean government is reportedly reexamining its appeasement policy toward North Korea. This is based on the judgment that North Korea's recent mobilization of heavily armored forces into the truce village of Panmunjom following its unilateral announcement that it will no longer recognize the Armistice Agreement which ended the 1950-53 Korean War, is in step with Pyongyang's long term strategy not to seek rapprochement with the South.

Such a transition is worth nothing as it signifies a total nullification of appeasement policies towards the north planned by Seoul in anticipation of greater inter-Korean economic cooperation and private exchanges after the general elections on April 11.

ROK: Kim Yong-sam Discusses Situation With Top Military Officers

SK0804010996 Seoul YONHAP in English 0105 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 8 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam met top military officers at Chongwadae [presidential offices] Monday morning to discuss how to cope with the heightened military tension in and around the Demilitarized Zone.

Attending the meeting were Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Kim Tong-chin and the chiefs of staff of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Kim was briefed on the developments in and around the DMZ, including North Korea's continuing acts of moving excess troops and weapons into the Joint Security Area (JSA) of the truce village of Panmunjom.

Kim instructed the Armed Forces to get fully ready to repel any type of North Korean provocation on the basis of firm combined Korea-U.S. defense posture.

He also warned that South Korea "would not tolerate it if reckless acts of provocation by North Korea continue."

ROK Estimates DPRK To Continue To Create Tension in DMZ

SK0804055596 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 8 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Kim Chang-ki and Ku Song-chae]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned on 7 April that the government estimates that North Korea will continue to create military tension in the DMZ, such as the deployment of heavy weapons and armed troops in Panmunjom, for at least over a month. North Korea will also eventually heighten the degree of tension in the future. The government's assessment is based on the judgment that North Korea's moves are, to a great extent, for domestic use, and are intended to increase unity within its society through the heightened tension.

It was also learned that the government is discussing behind the scenes the possibility of raising the North Korean issue to the UN Security Council with its major standing member states, including the United States, so that the issue be discussed officially in the council, in the event that North Korea continues moving to create tension and heightens its degree.

ROK Aims To Pressure DPRK Diplomatically on DMZ Violation

SK0804062096 Seoul YONHAP in English 0609 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 8 (YONHAP) — South Korea Monday requested the United States, Japan and about 30 other countries to officially express concerns over North Korea's recent attempt to nullify the Korean Armistice Agreement, Foreign Ministry spokesman So Tae-won said.

In a move to put pressure on North Korea to refrain from launching fresh efforts to scrap the armistice treaty, the Foreign Ministry also instructed its missions abroad to explain to their host governments the recent developments on the Korean peninsula like armed North Korean troops' advancing into the Demilitarized Zone, a buffer zone dividing the South and North Korea for the past decades, according to So.

South Korea is also considering referring the North's violation of the armistice treaty to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

"Taking the issue to the UNSC will clearly be one of the options we can take against the North since the recurrence of such actions by the North (referring to the North's armed troops in the DMZ) will heighten tensions on the Korean peninsula," So said.

The spokesman, however, added that his ministry has yet to made any decision on whether to take the issue to the Security Council.

"We will have to take into consideration what we can get by taking the issue to the Security Council," So said.

So said that his ministry has contacted the United Nations Command about the special report on the recent developments in the DMZ that it will present to the UNSC.

"The UNC will have to produce a special report which will serve as the basis for judging the provocations made by the North in the DMZ, and after that we can take steps to take the issue to the UNSC," he said.

Another official at the ministry also said that the only thing the South Korean Government can do at this stage is put diplomatic pressure on the North.

"In this context, we are closely consulting with the United States, Russia, China and Japan, among others, to urge them to take diplomatic measures to dissuade Pyongyang from further violations of the armistice treaty," he said.

The official explained that the provocative actions in the DMZ do not mean that Pyongyang wants to go to war with Seoul, but instead is motivated by the hope for material gain.

"What the North really wants is improved relations with Washington, normalized relations with Tokyo, food and energy assistance from China and a continual flow of weapons from Russia," he said.

In that sense, South Korea needs to be calm when dealing with the recent North Korean armistice violations, he added.

ROK: Tourism To Continue in Panmunjom Despite DPRK 'Intrusions'

SK0804064696 Seoul YONHAP in English 0639 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 8 (YONHAP) — The United Nations Command (UNC) reiterated Monday that visits by Korean and foreign tourists to Panmunjom would proceed as scheduled in spite of the recent Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) intrusions by North Korean troops.

The UNC reported that about eight or nine tour groups have visited Panmunjom daily since Pyongyang declared last Thursday that it would no longer observe the 1953 Armistice Agreement that ended the Korean war.

The move suggests that the position of the UNC, despite the North's renunciation of the armistice, is that the situation along the DMZ is not tense.

North Korean troops began their unauthorized intrusions into the Joint Security Area Friday night, a flagrant violation of the Armistice Agreement, after Pyongyang said it would no longer fulfill its armistice treaty obligations.

ROK: Defense Ministry Holds 'Emergency' Meeting on DPRK Moves

SK0804100396 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0700 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The ROK Defense Ministry has started working on countermeasures against North Korea's provocations, judging that North Korea's recent deployment of troops to the DMZ will continue. The ROK Defense Ministry convened an emergency executive meeting this afternoon with the directors of the Defense Ministry and generals of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in attendance. The meeting discussed countermeasures against North Korea's deployment of troops to the DMZ, and pledged immediate reprisal in the event that North Korea commits an armed provocation.

The Defense Ministry assessed that North Korea's consecutive deployment of armed troops is a high-level psychological tactic to incapacitate the Armistice Agreement and contact the United States directly, and it decided not to overreact as long as there is no direct armed provocation.

The Defense Ministry stated that apart from the Joint Security Area in Panmunjom, there are currently no unusual moves of the North Korean soldiers or signs of provocation in other DMZ areas, and tourists activities in Panmunjom remain normal.

Meanwhile, Kim Tong-chin, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, met with Gary Luck, commander-in-chief of U.S. Forces Korea this afternoon, and reportedly discussed the ROK-U.S. combined defense posture. U.S. Defense Secretary Perry reportedly will also meet with ROK Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho when he visits the ROK around 15 April to discuss joint countermeasures on the recent situation of the Korean peninsula. President Kim Yong-sam will convene an emergency National Security Council meeting at 3 PM [0600 GMT] Saturday to discuss the military tension in and around the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)

The meeting will closely scrutinize Pyongyang's declaration on Thursday that it is going to abandon its duty of jointly controlling the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and its moving on Friday of armed soldiers into the joint security area in the truce village of Panmunjom, informed sources said.

ROK: Defense Minister Interviewed on KPA Incursions Into DMZ

SK0804101396 Seoul MUNHWA ILBO in Korean 8 Apr 96 p 5

[Interview with ROK Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho by reporter Yi Chong-hun on 7 April in Seoul; first two paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[FBIS Summary] Around 2100 [1200 GMT] on 7 April, immediately after an incursion by armed troops of the North Korean People's Army [KPA] into Panmunjom for the third consecutive day, Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho directly exercised command over the situation in Panmunjom from the Command Control Room of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the underground bunker of the Defense Ministry complex. Defense Minister Yi visited the reporters' office in the Defense Ministry complex, saying the ROK-U.S. combined defense posture is firm and a U.S. airborne warning and control system [AWACS] will be dispatched from Okinawa.

The following are reporters' questions and the defense minister's answers.

[Question] When did you receive the report that North Korean armed troops had committed another incursion into Panmunjom on 7 April?

[Answer] I received the report a little after 2000 [1100 GMT]. I understand the North Korean Army soldiers did not engage in building positions, but conducted training before they left Panmunjom after the third incursion.

[Question] What countermeasures did our side take?

[Answer] The Panmunjom Guard Unit entered an A-type duty system. The step for all commanding generals and officers to be in set position has been taken for all areas in the frontline units.

[Question] To which unit do the troops that committed the incursion into Panmunjom belong?

[Answer] They seem to belong to the Panmunjom Guard Battalion, which is the unit that committed the ax murder in 1976.

[Question] Is there anything unusual in the front area except in Panmunjom?

[Answer] At 1300 [0400 GMT] on 7 April, in the Third Division area of the DMZ, three of the 12 North Korean troops did not wear the "Guard" band; the rest wore the "Guard" band. It seems the command system is not well-ordered.

[Question] What is your analysis of the North Korean objective in committing the incursion?

[Answer] It seems North Korea intends to incapacitate the Armistice Agreement and watch our response. Their committing this military action while proposing rice talks in Beijing seems to reveal that the North Korean leadership itself is not taking well-ordered measures.

[Question] What is the status of the defense posture of the ROK- U.S. Combined Forces Command?

[Answer] It is firm. Because the North Korean Army is intentionally heightening military tension, we are discussing with the U.S. side measures to augment our intelligence capabilities toward the North. This includes an AWACS augmentation.

[Question] The North Korean military action is creating worries among the people.

[Answer] I hope the people will trust the government and the army. I will refrain from visiting the forefront area for the time being for fear it may add to the people's worries.

ROK: Japan Shows 'Deep Concern' Over DPRK's Armistice Statement

SK0604011396 Seoul YONHAP in English 0037 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 6 (YONHAP) — Japan expressed deep concern Friday over the North Korean announcement Thursday that Pyongyang would not uphold obligations provided for by the Korean armistice agreement, and said it would closely watch future developments.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto warned, "Although it is not that war is imminent, (the announcement) is a very dangerous development."

Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda said, "It is undesirable for tension to mount on the Korean peninsula," adding that the North's announcement "is indeed regrettable."

The latest North Korean move might be designed to influence its negotiations with the United States, Ikeda opined.

"Displaying an oversensitive response more than the situation dictates should be avoided. We'll closely watch future developments," he said.

Meanwhile, the Japanese press, in their dispatches from Seoul, referred to Pyongyang's move as "dangerous gambling" designed to conclude a peace accord with Washington.

It is also an attempt to consolidate the establishment in the North in the face of dire internal situation and to stir confusion in South Korea prior to general elections, they added.

ROK, U.S. To Hold Military Drill 15-23 Apr

SK0504064196 (Internet) The Joong-Ang Ilbo WWW in English 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ROK-U.S. Forces Command announced on the 4th that the South Korean military troops and U.S. reinforcement from the United States and the Pacific region will begin a joint military drill known as RSOI (reception, staging, onward movement and integration) from April 15-23.

This is the third RSOI training drill to be held in Korea since it was first staged in 1994. The exercise involves 'Reception' of the U.S. reinforcement arriving from the United States and the Pacific region, 'Staging' them, then executing 'Onward Movement' to the destination, and finally 'Integration' with local troops.

ROK: Finance Ministry Predicts Trade With U.S. To Top $100 Billion by 2000

SK0504103996 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 5 Apr 96 p 9

[Report by staff reporter Yi Chang-sop]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Two-way trade volume between Korea and the United States will reach 100 billion dollars before the year 2000, according to an estimate by the Ministry of Finance and Economy [MFE] and the Bank of Korea.

Assuming that two-way trade will grow by an annual average of 12.9 percent over the next five years, officials estimated that trade volume between Korea and the United States will grow to more than 100 billion dollars, double from 55 billion dollars last year.

The projection was also made by the Korean Embassy in the United States, which said the pace of trade expansion between the two nations is quite impressive.

From 1990 to 1995, trade volume grew by an annual average of 8.4 percent. Last year, however, the growth rate exceeded 30 percent, the Bank of Korea said. U.S. exports to Korea grew by 40 percent last year, while Korean shipments to the United States expanded by 17 percent, lower than its global export growth rate of 30 percent.

A Bank of Korea official expressed worry that the nation's trade deficit would continue to widen in the future. According to Korean calculations, the United States sustained a surplus of 6.2 billion dollars in its trade with Korea last year.

U.S. statistics revealed that overall American exports to Korea in 1995 totaled 26.6 billion dollars and imports from Korea reached 24 billion dollars, totalling a trade surplus of almost three billion dollars. Korea was the U.S.' eighth largest partner in two-way trade.

Last year, automobile imports were up 85 percent, with cars from the United States leading all other countries. Exports of American consumer goods to Korea increased 70 percent. Additionally, more than 600,000 Koreans travelled to the United States this year.

Korea was the third largest market for U.S. agricultural, fishery and forestry products, importing 3.5 billion dollars from the United States in 1995.

Korea has grown to be the U.S.' fifth largest export market. Korea is the only Asian partner with which the United States sustains trade surpluses. U.S. exports to Korea were twice those to China, although Korea has 22 times less the population.

Despite the two-way trade volume expansion, analysts expect Korea's trade deficit with the United States to widen. Korean policymakers have been widely criticized for putting lukewarm effort in tackling the deficit while being overly accommodating to U.S. complaints over market access barriers here. Critics say that Seoul officials have been too "defensive" in trade diplomacy, without being assertive in their attempts to break down barriers facing Korean exporters in the U.S. market.

ROK: U.S. Agrees 'In Principle' To Inspection of USFK Farm Products

SK0604024496 Seoul YONHAP in English 0213 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP) — The government will inspect all farm products the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) procures overseas and locally, starting sometime during this year if things go smoothly.

The U.S. Government has agreed, in principle, to transfer the inspections of farm products to be supplied to the USFK to the South Korean Government during the recent negotiations on amendments to the Status of Force Agreement (SOFA), according to the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry over the weekend.

Whether the transfer of such inspections should be stipulated in the main text of the revised sofa or in an attached document is the only issue to be solved in the bilateral negotiations, an official said.

The government will conduct inspections that include soil tests at the source of supply to determine quarantine requirements for farm products imported from the United States and other offshore areas as well as those domestically procured, he added.

The quantity of farm products supplied to the USFK was not made known.

ROK, U.S. Reportedly To Push Limits for DPRK Missile Development

SK0604044196 Seoul YONHAP in English 0430 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP) — South Korea and the United States will push for North Korea to strictly limit its capabilities for development of long-range missiles as well as transfer of its missile technology to Middle East countries, a Foreign Ministry official said Saturday.

"The North's missile production capability itself poses a great security concern in Northeast Asia as well as on the Korean peninsula, and the basic principle of arms control is that arms production capabilities as well as production and deployment of arms be subjected to control," said the official who will fly to Washington Monday to coordinate positions of Seoul and Washington before Washington-Pyongyang missile talks expected to be held late April.

The official said that South Korea and the United States could coax the North into significantly restricting its missile production capabilities by offering "carrots," although there exists no international regime to control missile production capabilities.

The current Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) calls for member countries to refrain from exporting technology for producing missiles with a range of more than 300 km but falls short of touching on developing missile technology independently.

"Besides, North Korea has its own weaknesses and we can give them something in exchange for refraining from developing long-range missiles," he said.

The official could not, however, give a clear picture of what will be discussed at Monday's talks with Washington officials, and only said, "We will discuss technical and practical issues concerning the upcoming Washington-Pyongyang missile talks."

He said that Seoul and Washington have maintained close contact during the missile talks through diplomatic channels and feel the need to have a meeting for working-level officials to discuss the issue.

The official denied reports that the missile talks will be military talks between Washington and Pyongyang, saying that "As far as I know, the talks will be strictly limited to issues related to the North's production and export of long-range missiles."

The official would not elaborate on the North's missile production capabilities.

"In 1993 one of the North's Nodong missiles landed in the East Sea [Sea of Japan] more than 500 km from where it was launched during a series of missile-launching tests," he said.

"We therefore assume that the North has already deployed missiles with a range of 500 km or more," he said. "But it's very difficult to know the exact level of missile technology in the North because no country reveals its missile capabilities."

ROK: NCNP, NKP Argue Over Alleged Information to U.S. Embassy

SK0804031596 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 5 Apr 96 p 4

[By reporter Kwon Sok-chon: "Argument on Flunkeyism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Embassy in Seoul has become a point of dispute between the ruling New Korea Party [NKP] and the National Congress for New Politics [NCNP], the so-called "argument on flunkeyism." The NKP, which had a brawl with the United Liberal Democrats on 1 April, when it linked the exchange of cherry blossoms with Japan to the Tokto issue, raised the issue first.

Kim Chol, spokesman for the NKP Election Polling Committee, appeared at the reporter's room late afternoon on 3 April, somewhat exited, to make some remarks. He said: "The NCNP provided the U.S. Embassy in Seoul with material regarding the general elections, political information, and countermeasures to politicking through facsimile or by personal visits to the embassy." Spokesman Kim cornered the NCNP by saying: "The NCNP's act is not different at all from the flunky officials of the old Korea who communicated secretly with embassy officials of powerful countries to avail themselves of outside forces." He explained that Korean employees of the U.S. Embassy were so angry with the NCNP that they even exposed the names of "figures who frequently visit the U.S. Embassy" including a person named Kang, secretary of the Asia-Pacific Peace Foundation.

Of course, the NCNP did not remain silent over these remarks. It launched a counterattack through Pak Hong-yop, vice spokesman for the party's Election Polling Committee, on the morning of 4 April. Pak explained: "We merely distribute the brochure 'Our News,' published daily by our party spokesmen's room, to organizations at home and abroad upon their request." He then made a repartee, saying: "The NKP absurdly talked as if we had leaked confidential documents of the country to foreign countries. This is indeed an absurd remark unbefitting the age of globalization." As regard the background of the NKP comment, Pak pointed out "it is aimed at hurting opposition parties at any cost, as well as repressing their diplomatic activities since there are growing signs of a NKP defeat in the upcoming general elections," and brought up questions about the course of obtaining such information by the ruling party. In this regard, the NKP said "we cannot explain how we obtained the information because it concerns personal affairs of the individual who provided the information," and added: "Anyway, it does not run counter to the people's sense of independence, does it?"

ROK: DPRK's Armistice Stand 'Hottest Issue' on Campaign Trail

SK0704044196 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 7 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] North Korea's attempt to render the Armistice Agreement obsolete has emerged as the hottest issue on the campaign trails for the April 11 general elections.

Heavily armed North Korean troops entered the Joint Security Area of the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ] Friday, one day after Pyongyang announced that it was forgoing its DMZ duties.

The ruling New Korea Party [NKP], expecting the move will rally the conservative middle-class behind it, yesterday stressed the government is prepared to counter any provocation from North Korea.

In contrast, the opposition parties cautioned that the government and ruling party will attempt to use the issue politically and stepped up their attacks against the Kim Yong-sam administration's foreign and North Korean policies.

Yi Hoe-chang, top campaign manager of the NKP, emphasized the need for political stability at this time as the nation faces threats to its security.

"Political stability is needed as Pyongyang has violated the Armistice Agreement by sending in heavily armed troops to the JSA [joint security area] and Japan has claimed its territorial rights to Tokto," he told those attending a stumping rally in Taejon, South Chungchong Province.

Political stability is possible only if the ruling party maintains its majority in the National Assembly in the April 11 polls, he added.

Pak Chan-chong, chairman of the NKP campaign committee for the capital area, charged the opposition parties with trying to put President Kim Yong-sam in a corner.

"Opposition leaders are only worsening the public's uneasiness by saying they would seek an Assembly hearing on how President Kim funded his 1992 presidential campaign in this time of national crisis," Pak said at a campaign rally in Seoul.

The ruling party also called on opposition groups to cancel mass rallies for fear that the North would misinterpret their meaning.

Kim Chong-pil, president of the minor opposition United Liberal Democrats, urged the government to employ stronger diplomacy and not make any concessions in this brinkmanship game with the North.

"The Seoul government should ask its allies to stop all talks and negotiations with Pyongyang until it decides to strictly abide by the Armistice Agreement," Kim said at a rally in Seoul.

Meanwhile, the parties continued their campaign rallies across the nation under the judgment that stumping over the weekend will be decisive in attracting those voters who have yet to make up their minds.

Kim Tae-chung, president of the main opposition National Congress for New Politics [NCNP], was on the campaign trail in the Cholla area, his traditional power base, in an attempt to ensure his party sweeps all the seats at stake there.

Kim appealed to voters to support the NCNP so that I can run for president in 1997 under better circumstances than in the past." If he runs again, it will be his fourth bid.

Alleging that the NKP and the ULD will seek a Constitutional amendment to introduce the parliamentary Cabinet government following the April polls, he stressed that if the voters want to deter their ploy, the NCNP should win at least a third of the 299 National Assembly seats.

The minor opposition Democratic Party [DP] held a massive outdoor rally in Seoul and asked voters to support the party to put an end to the three Kims' domination of the nation's politics.

Yi Chung-chae, the DP's chief campaign manager, stressed that the April elections should serve to stop the three politicians from controlling the country's political destiny.

ROK: Opposition Worries DPRK Moves Could Affect Elections

SK0704055796 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 7 Apr 96 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column: "Parties' Reactions"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Opposition parties worried yesterday that the sudden tension in the DMZ area could have a negative impact on the coming elections Thursday.

They revealed their concern over the possibility that the ruling camp might be tempted to use the developing situation for its campaign strategy.

However, leaders of the ruling New Korea Party [NKP] made it clear that it has no intention to take advantage of the new tension, asking all parties to cooperate when national defense is concerned.

NKP spokesman Kim Chol said, "The NK [North Korean] move was largely expected, considering it has consistently claimed there should be a change in the current armistice system."

NKP Rep. Yi Man-sop, former Assembly speaker, said, "The current relation between the South and North Korea has become too serious for the ruling camp to even attempt to use it for political purposes."

The main opposition National Congress for New Politics [NCNP] said that it is a move much to be regretted and demanded the North withdraw its announcement.

Kim Han-kil, spokesman for the NCNP campaign body, said, "We believe that the North Korean move is an attempt to force direct negotiations with the United States to conclude a peace treaty. But the current armistice system cannot be simply deserted by one party alone. The North must retract the announcement right away."

The minor opposition Democratic Party [DP] also expressed their concern about North Korean provocation.

DP spokesman Kim Hong-sin said, "The North must end its aggressive attitude and we urge the government to cope with the situation cool-heatedly." He warned the government and ruling camp not to use the tension for campaign purposes.

The United Liberal Democrats spokesman Yi Tong-pok made remarks similar to those of other opposition parties.

He said, "The government must be ready to deal with the North Korean attempt to exclude South Korea from direct talks with the U.S. for normalization. To prevent this, the administration should not allow the U.S. to be swayed by the North's threat."

ROK: Authorities Uncover Alleged DPRK, Yakuza International Drug Ring

SK0504104096 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 5 Apr 96 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] South Korean law enforcement authorities uncovered an international drug trafficking ring allegedly with North Korean and Japanese yakuza ties attempting to smuggle 20 billion won (25 million dollars) worth of refined methamphetamine or philopon through Pusan last month.

According to the Pusan District Prosecutor's Office yesterday, Chong Hyon-chin, 57, Kim Chang-kyu, 60, and Yi Tae-hyon, 40, were arrested on charges of violating the Psychotropic Drugs Control Law.

The three allegedly attempted to smuggle into Korea 6.3 kilograms of the illegal drug through the southern port but were apprehended by law authorities awaiting them on a tip. The drug in question was manufactured in China.

Three other members of the ring were put on the police wanted list.

The Agency for National Security Planning [NSP], the government counter-espionage agency, was also involved in the sting operation because of suspicions the drug ring has connections with North Korea.

Pusan Prosecutors said that Yi Su-yong, 54, one of three persons being sought by police, recruited the arrested couriers at a hotel in Shenyang, China to smuggle the drug into Korea.

After they were recruited, raw material was purchased and about 6.3 kilos of the drug was manufactured in a basement belonging to Yi's girlfriend. The goods were concealed amid boxes of blossoms on board a freighter bound for Pusan.

During the questioning, the three told investigators that they had acquired the raw material for the drug from Germany through an employee of the North Korean consulate in Shenyang and had manufactured about 300 kilos of methamphetamine. They ditched their plan to sell it in Korea and Japan at the last minute possibly because of internal argument. That amount of drug could have fetched up to 900 billion won on the street.

Yi was quoted by prosecutors as saying, "I received 20,000 U.S. dollars from the North Korean consulate employee as part of the money I used to purchase the German raw material."

They alleged that they hired Pak Chong-ho, 36, an ethnic Chinese-Korean trader, to act as mediator on behalf of a North Korean firm, "Anyong," that was to purchase the raw material.

The North Korean firm issued a letter of credit for the purchase in an attempt to make it appear as if the deal was a legitimate one and that the raw material was destined for North Korea.

Pak was supposed to have been paid about 900 million won for his role in the deal. But the deal fell through at the last minute, prosecutors said.

It was also discovered that they bought 7.2 billion won worth of chemicals used as the catalyst in the refining process on credit from a Japanese organized criminal ring. The yakuzas were promised drug shipments in return.

The Pusan prosecutors and NSP have gone on full alert in anticipation that members of the ring still at large might try to smuggle the drug in again in the near future.

At the same time, the Korean law enforcement authorities have asked Interpol and Chinese police to help hunt them down.

YONHAP Reopener—Further on Security Meeting

SK0604025996 Seoul YONHAP in English 0205 GMT 6 Apr 96

[Corrected version of sk0604022896; deleting first three grafs from original FBIS version]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP) — President Kim is expected to express deep concern about the series of suspicious North Korean movements and will instruct the council to put national security Forces on alert so that the country will be able to immediately and firmly respond to any North Korean provocation, the sources said.

The meeting will be the third of its kind called by the chief executive under Article 91 of the Constitution in the past two years.

President Kim convened the first meeting in June 1994 when the North Korean nuclear issue reached a critical stage and the second meeting on July 9 the same year, a day after the death of former North Korean leader Kim Il-song.

President Kim is going to issue a warning to Pyongyang that South Korea will take immediate punitive action if provoked by reckless violations of the Korean cease-fire agreement, according to the sources.

Kim is also expected to ask the people to trust the government and devote themselves to their jobs, while emphasizing that the government is prepared for all contingencies and is able to defend the peace and security of the Korean peninsula.

Participating in the Security Council meeting are Prime Minister Yi Su-song, Finance and Economy Minister Na Ung-pae, National Unification Minister Kwon O-ki, Foreign Minister Kong No-myong, Home Minister Kim U-sok, Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho, State Minister for Political Affairs Chu Ton-sik, Agency for National Security Planning Director Kwon Yong-hae, National Security Council Chairman Pak Ik- sun, and Chairman of Joint Chief of Staff Kim Tong-chin.

ROK: KEDO, DPRK To Meet on Reactor Supply Contract in NY 8 Apr

SK0704054196 Seoul YONHAP in English 0525 GMT 7 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, April 6 (YONHAP) — The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) and North Korea will meet here Monday to discuss implementing the light-water nuclear reactor supply contract.

In the first meeting since the contract was signed in New York late last year, the two sides will discuss drafting a protocol on diplomatic privileges and immunities to be granted to KEDO officials who will stay in the communist country during the construction of two light-water reactors.

North Korea will send a five-member delegation headed by Choe Myong-hwan, deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's consular dvision, to the meeting.

The KEDO is an international consortium responsible for construction of light-water nuclear reactors in the communist country, with South Korea, the United States and Japan playing the leading role.

Monday's meeting in New York draws a particular attention of the world as it takes place amid the mounting tensions in Korea following North Korea's show of force for the second consecutive day Saturday in the joint security area at the truce village of Panmunjom in violation of the Armistice Agreement which ended the Korean war in 1953.

Another meeting is shceduled for April 16 also in New York.

ROK: ULD Calls For Suspension of KEDO-DPRK New York Meeting

SK0804024396 Seoul YONHAP in English 0237 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 8 (YONHAP) — The minor opposition United Liberal Democrats (ULD) on Monday called for "an immediate suspension" of the working-level meeting between the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) and North Korea that has just opened in New York.

In a statement issued in reaction to North Korea's show of force by moving armed troops to the truce village of Panmunjom for three days in a row, a flagrant violation of the 1953 Armistice Agreement, ULD spokesman Yi Tong-pok said it was impossible to understand why KEDO officials would hold a meeting with officials from the country defying the international pact.

The government should immediately recall its KEDO delegation from the New York meeting, he stressed.

Unless and until North Korea stops its show of force in Panmunjom and resumes its obligations as stipulated by the Armistice Agreement, KEDO should refrain from all discussions with the communist country that involve the light-water nuclear reactor construction project, he added.

ROK: Daily Views 'Political Indifference' to Upcoming Elections

SK0504082396 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 5 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by staff reporter Pak Song-yong]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] With political indifference wide-spread among voters as the April 11 general elections approaches, which party will be the biggest benefactor of the apathy is the biggest question.

A recent poll conducted jointly by a leading daily and a polling company, the Korea Gallup, shows that less than a week before the elections, more than half of voters are still unsure or unwilling to decide on a candidate.

Rep. Kang Sam-chae, secretary-general of the ruling New Korea Party, also said yesterday that unlike in past polls, the portion of undecided voters remains high only six days ahead of election day.

One of the reasons for the political cynicism and apathy is, Kang said in all election strategy meeting, similar policies by rival parties.

Even President Kim Yong-sam's drive for clean politics, which could have been a major election issue, has become a target of opposition mockery after one of his close aides was indicted last week on graft charges.

Another reason is that many voters are tired of the lock the three Kims — President Kim, his archrivals Kim Tae-chung and Kim Chong-pil — still have on Korean politics.

Political apathy among voters has been strong enough to force political parties to shift their campaign tactics to those emphasizing man-to-man contact with voters, as opposed to speaking at mass rallies.

Political indifference, widespread particularly among voters in their 20s, can easily lead a high abstention rate, observers say.

Opinion poll experts say the voter turnout in the upcoming National Assembly elections is likely to drop to around 65 percent from 71.9 percent in the last general elections in 1992.

Officials of the Central Election Management Committee, the nation's top election watchdog body, agree with the pollsters' opinion, citing the voting trend of the last three Assembly polls.

The trend shows that the voting rate fell by 8.6 percent and 4.9 percent respectively, in 1988 and in 1992 from the voter turnout 84.6 percent in the 1984 National Assembly elections.

The answers to what impact the predicted high abstention rate will have on the outcome of the April polls are divided.

A senior officer of the Korea Gallup said a high abstention rate will specifically help the main opposition National Congress for New Politics [NCNP] led by Kim Tae-chung.

"In the past when there was a clear division between democracy campaigners and military dictators, a low voting rate worked favorably for the ruling party, which had organized supporters and money. But, the situation will totally be reversed in the upcoming polls," said the officer.

"The NCNP will be the biggest benefactor because the abstention rate of voters from Cholla provinces, party leader Kim's homebase, is relatively low, and they tend to give uniform support to his party," he said.

A pollster at Media Research, a polling company has a different opinion.

He said voters in their 20s, who make up 28.6 percent of the total electorate, will decide whether the voting rate is high or not.

He agreed that the abstention rate among them will be higher in the upcoming polls than in the 1992 elections.

But the pollster said that it is hard to tell which party will benefit most because the 20s age group does not particularly favor a certain party.

Pak Song-kuk, a political advertisement expert, said "If the voting rate among them is as low as expected, the minor opposition Democratic Party, which commands relatively high popularity among them, will suffer most."

Kim Tong-il, a sociologist teaching at Ewha Womans University, maintains a more typical opinion.

"I don't know which political party will benefit from a high abstention rate, but I do know that the voters themselves will suffer the most.

"A high abstention rate will allow those candidates unskilled in state affairs but very capable of mobilizing supporters by any possible means available to take seats on the National Assembly," he said.

ROK: THE KOREA HERALD Views New Korea Party's Election Strategy

SK0504084496 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 5 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It was the ruling New Korea Party's [NKP] election strategy to send prominent, reform-minded figures on campaign trails and have them trumpet President Kim Yong-sam's reform policy.

The election strategy was built around two recruits — former Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang, a man of principle advocating the rule of law, and Pak Chan-chong, a lawyer-turned political heavyweight popular among young people.

The New Korea Party expected Yi and Pak to win over voters fed up with politics as usual — particularly voters in their 20s and 30s in Seoul and its adjacent regions.

This demographic group, which accounts for more than 56 percent of the electorate in the nation, lives in higher numbers in the region encompassing Seoul, Inchon and Kyonggi Province.

But the ruling party is overhauling this strategy of focusing on young voters and Seoul's metropolitan area, where 96 of the 253 National Assembly seats for popular voting are up for grabs.

Changes are following a scandal involving a personal aide to President Kim, which political analysts say has driven away many young voters supporting the ruling party to opposition parties or left them undecided over which party to support.

The arrest of Chang Hak-no, a secretary managing President Kim's private affairs, on graft charges last month dealt a blow to President Kim's anticorruption and reform drives.

Chang was allegedly taking huge sums of money from corporations just as President Kim was promising he would not receive even a penny from businesses.

The Chang scandal's impact on voters has forced the ruling party to change its election strategy.

One of the most notable changes is an effort to embrace conservative voters, as well as those desiring reforms, in Seoul's metropolitan area.

The ruling party has put Rep. Yi Han-tong, a political big shot with a conservative image, into Pak Chan-chong's campaign team covering Seoul, Inchon and their surrounding Kyonggi Province.

Rep. Yi, who is a National Assembly vice speaker, started his campaign in Seoul yesterday to draw conservative voters into the ruling party's folds.

His target is conservative voters in their 40s or older who still remain undecided with less than a week left until the general elections. Ruling parties relied on this demographic group for overwhelming support in the past.

An official from the ruling party said that many in this and other age groups have not decided which candidate they will vote for in the April 11 elections.

"The upcoming elections are different from the previous ones," said Rep. Kang Sam-chae, secretary-general of the New Korea Party. "By this time, the number of uncommitted voters would have declined sharply. But it has not."

Kang said the ruling party is not optimistic about the outcome of the elections because it does not know which party undecided voters will eventually come to support.

The ruling party, he said, will select 60 electoral districts in the nation where its candidates are running close races against their rivals and provide them with massive support.

The party will also send its national constituency candidates for uncontested National Assembly seats on campaign trails in those electoral districts, he said.

In addition to the 253 National Assembly seats up for popular voting, political parties will share 46 uncontested seats in proportion to the votes they will draw in the April 11 elections.

ROK: Parties Attempt To Win Over Undecided Votes

SK0504103596 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 5 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by staff reporter Kwon Tae-yong]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] With the crucial elections only six days away, party leaders are all out to bring the so-called "floating" voters to their side, stumping the districts where competition is close.

Confronted with the unusual indifference of voters, parties consider the arbor day holiday and the following weekend their last chance to win over undecided voters.

In the Seoul metropolitan area, the ruling New Korea Party [NKP] fears that the traditional supporters are turning their back on the NKP after the Chang Hak-no bribery scandal broke out.

The NKP has been fending off the opposition parties' claim that the prosecutor's investigation fell short of people's expectations.

However, the main opposition National Congress for New Politics [NCNP], which disclosed Chang's ill-gotten money, is gaining not so much advantages as they expected among those restive conservatives who had usually sided with the party in power in the past.

In between the two parties, the United Liberal Democrats [ULD], which claims to be the genuine conservative party, are appealing to the former supporters of the ruling NKP.

Continuing to barnstorm in Seoul, NKP chief campaign manager Yi Hoe-chang augmented his criticism at the opposition party, saying, "Those candidates who are involved in the candidate-buying scandals must drop out of the race," alluding to the NCNP and ULD candidates.

With unprecedented intensity, he urged the opposition leaders to make formal apologies to the people.

The NKP's Seoul campaign manager Pak Chan-chong asserted that his party will do its best to eradicate corruption and will not allow a repeat of Chang's case.

Assembly Vice Speaker Yi Han-tong of the NKP joined his party's campaign rallies as of late in the Seoul and Kyonggi Province area yesterday to assist struggling NKP candidates.

He stressed the importance of the conservative class for political stability. "Without the help of the silent majority, no country will be able to achieve prosperity, and I will stand at the forefront in protecting the middle class," he said.

The NCNP leader Kim Tae-chung took part in his party's rallies in 13 Seoul metropolitan districts and its vicinities yesterday. He repeated his call for enough votes to check the Kim administration.

He said, "Chang's bribery is not an example of individual corruption, but one entrenched in power structure."

Democratic Party [DP] leader Hong Song-u said, "The dirty side of the three Kims has been revealed through Chang's bribery case, nomination-buying, and reception of money from Japanese firms."

He said, "The DP is the only party not tainted by dirty money, and we are the only party that will bring hope to the nation's politics in the 21st century."

ULD leader Kim Chong-pil said in campaign rallies in Kyonggi Province and North Chungchong Province, "President, Kim has brought instability to the lives of people with his unprincipled reforms. Now we must give him stern judgment."

He repeated his claim that the parliamentary cabinet system should be introduced to prevent further tragedy under the presidential system.

He argued that the cabinet system better suit the Korean reality than the presidential system.

ROK: Opposition Candidate Says Fired Upon, Not Hurt

SK0604023596 Seoul YONHAP in English
0227 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ansan, Kyonggi Province, April 6 (YONHAP) — An opposition candidate running in the upcoming general elections reported to police Saturday that he was shot at early that morning.

Chang Kyong-u, running on the opposition Democratic Party ticket for the Ansan B electoral district, told police that while he was being driven home at 2:20 AM, he heard a gunshot and saw the rear right window of his car cracked.

He was entering the Sujong Hanyang apartment complex where he lives.

Chang, sitting in the passenger's seat next to his driver, Kim Hang-po, was not hurt.

Both men said they saw a man get in a car across the main road and zoom away in the opposite direction of Sonbu Elementary School.

Police are searching for the car.

ROK: ULD Leader Asked Allegations Party Took Money for Nominations

SK0604064296 Seoul YONHAP in English
0550 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP) — The Seoul District Prosecutor's Office summoned Yi Pil-son, vice president of the conservative opposition United Liberal Democrats Saturday, for questioning about his allegations that the leadership of his party accepted 3 billion won in return for nominating national constituency candidates for the upcoming general elections.

The prosecution reportedly asked Yi which ULD leader had demanded the contributions and if such contributions were actually made.

The prosecutors are analyzing a tape recording submitted by Yi of a conversation in which a party leader allegedly demanded payment for a nomination, according to a prosecution official.

Pak Wan-kyu, a ULD executive councilor, meanwhile, refused to answer a summons from the prosecution Saturday morning, on the grounds that he was only involved in the nomination of district candidates and therefore knows nothing about how his party's national constituency candidates were selected.

The prosecutors will, therefore, set another date for Pak's questioning, the official said.

ROK: Opposition Leader Comments on Upcoming General Elections

OW0604121596 Tokyo KYODO in English
0937 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Taegu, South Korea, April 6 KYODO — A leader of one of South Korea's two main opposition parties said Saturday there could be a coalition government if President Kim Yong-sam's ruling New Korea Party loses the April 11 general election.

"It's possible that President Kim will leave his party and a coalition government will be formed if (the ruling party) becomes a minority," said Pak Chol-un, vice president of the United Liberal Democrats.

The 53-year-old Pak made his remarks in an interview with KYODO News in this central South Korean city.

He said South Korean politics will undergo a major realignment if the ruling party suffers a major defeat in the parliamentary election.

"There will be a typhoon for a political realignment toward the parliamentary cabinet system. I'll make efforts to make the opposition parties united," Pak said in remarks alluding to the possibility of forming a coalition with Kim Tae-chung's National Coalition for New Politics.

Pak, a prosecutor-turned politician, says no party could win a simple majority in the upcoming election and the New Korea Party would fall into a minority governing party with three parties opposing one another.

If that is the case, the ruling party would try to lure independents and some opposition party members but such an attempt would fail to secure a majority of 150 seats in the national assembly, Pak said.

He said there would be a major political realignment if the ruling party's seats fail 30 to 40 short of the majority.

"A typhoon for a major political realignment will blow. If that is the case, a revision of the constitution toward a cabinet system will be used as a good reason to do so," he said.

"It is the duty of the opposition parties to get united and seek a merger if possible on behalf of the people," Pak said.

The election, viewed as a prelude to the 1997 presidential election, will directly elect 253 lawmakers from constituencies with a total of 299 seats at stake.

The other 46 seats will be awarded to parties under a proportional system based on their percentage of the popular vote.

ROK: Election Commission Reports on Absentee Balloting in Elections

SK0704031696 Seoul YONHAP in English 0246 GMT 7 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 7 (YONHAP) — The Central Election Management Commission said 700,435 absentee voters had cast a ballot from April 4-6, 94.05 percent of the eligible 744,711 absentee voters in the April 11 parliamentary elections.

The turnout rate was lower than the 95.17 percent registered in the local elections in June last year.

The turnout was the largest on the first day of April 4, with 376,162, followed by 208,288 on the next day and 115,985 on the third and last day.

ROK: Group Concerned About Regionalism's Effect on Elections

SK0704060796 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 7 Apr 96 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Members of the representative civic organization, "Kyongsillyon," or the Citizen's Coalition for Economic Justice [CCEJ], said they are most worried about the effect of regionalism on the April 11 National Assembly elections and the likelihood that many candidates will spend more than 10 times the amount allowed under the election law.

In a survey conducted by the CCEJ over a 10-day period on 99 of its members nationwide, candidates were expected to spend an average of 1.14 billion won, at least 10 times the sum legally permitted.

A majority of 52.9 percent cited regionalism as the most worrying factor shaping the election outcome. Other elements the members felt would adversely affect the results included voters' decisions based on candidates' academic achievements and home town origins by 27.6 percent, money politics by 10.3 percent, and government influence by 5.7 percent.

Of the pollees, 40.4 percent believed that campaign promises would have little or no effect on who they would vote for. Instead, 50.6 percent indicated their support for a candidate would be based on his or her character. Only 17.2 percent said campaign promises and policies were important. Scholastic achievements and work experience, and pledges of regional development were mentioned by 9.2 percent and 6.9 percent respectively.

Over 60 percent of those polled reacted positively to the unprecedented number of young candidates in their 20s and 30s and 52.6 percent thought one of the changes realized through the elections should be a generational change to end the "Three Kims' Era."

Voters in their 20s and 30s make up the larger portion of all those eligible to vote, perhaps indicating why there are so many young candidates.

According to the Home Ministry, 68.6 percent of the population or 31,488,294 people have voting rights in the upcoming 15th general elections. Among them, 28.3 percent or 8,923,536, are twenty something and 27.5 percent or 8,665,856 are in their 30s.

The number of people in their 40s and 50s is proportionally smaller with 17.9 percent or 5,647,759 and 12.9 percent or 4,045,896 respectively. Voters aged 60 and above total 13.4 percent or 4,205,247.

While the total number of voters in the 20-39 age bracket saw a slight increase of 28,747 over the gubernatorial elections last June, their overall ratio has in fact declined from 56.6 percent to 55.8 percent.

The number of voters in their fifties who are in the decision-making seats in society, has dropped from last year's 14.2 percent to 12.9 percent. The gray population in their sixties has risen by 1.4 percent.

As far as gender is concerned, a majority of 50.8 percent or 15,996,015 of the voters are women.

ROK: Minister Criticized for Remarks on Army's Role in Elections

SK0704061896 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 7 Apr 96 p 2

["From the "Press Pocket" column: "O's Meddling?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Congress for New Politics [NCNP] yesterday denounced Information Minister O In-hwan for allegedly trying to have the Army intervene in the coming elections, calling for his immediate resignation.

Kwon No-kap, vice-chairman of the NCNP campaign body, told a news conference that Min. O had instigated the personnel of the Defense Security Command to intervene in the elections.

"The Defense Security Command played decisive roles in helping solidify past regimes. We expect you to play the same role this time," O was quoted as saying.

O was also criticized for having said that presidential secretary Chang Hak-no, arrested for taking bribes, has been unreasonably condemned by the media.

"Chang was overly condemned by the media. He just couldn't figure out which money to take and which not," Kwon quoted O as saying.

Minister O said through his spokesman that he was quoted out of context. Who would dare to attempt to influence military personnel in elections, he asked.

ROK: Kim Tae-chung Summit Offer Meets Negative Reaction

SK0704064596 Seoul YONHAP in English 0625 GMT 7 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 7 (YONHAP) — President Kim Tae-chung of the main opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) proposed Sunday that the government and opposition parties hold a summit meeting on measures against North Korea's fragrant violations of the Armistice Agreement but met negative reactions from the other parties.

Kim made the proposal in a statement issued in Kwangju where he visited to make stump speeches in support of NCNP candidates running for the April 11 parliamentary elections.

The ruling New Korea Party (NKP) turned down the summit proposal, saying it is not an urgent political issue at this juncture.

NKP spokesman Kim Chul said that all political parties should strive to create a firm national consensus and support for the measures the government already took against the north's military provocation intended to kill the truce agreement, instead of holding a summit meeting.

The minor opposition Democratic Party (DP) also responded negatively to the NCNP leader's summit proposal.

DP spokesman Kim Hong-shin called the proposal a political scheme to reverse the trend of election campaign against the NCNP, adding, however, that his party agrees, in principle, to a summit meeting on any problems facing the nation.

The other minor opposition United Liberal Democrats (ULD) also opposed the proposal, saying the summit at this point of time is not appropriate.

ULD spokesman Yi Dong-bok said his party would carefully study the proposal after the April 11 parliamentary elections, adding that the ULD opposes both the ruling and opposition parties using North Korea's show of force in Panmunjom in their election campaign.

ROK: Admiral Kim Song-tok Appointed Ambassador-at-Large

SK0804030196 Seoul YONHAP in English 0241 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 8 (YONHAP) — The Foreign Ministry appointed Monday Kim Song-tok, former vice chief of staff of the Republic of Korea (ROK) joint chief of staff headquarters, as ambassador-at-large.

A 1962 graduate of the Naval Academy in Chinhae, South Kyongsang Province, Kim also studied at the Naval Command & Staff College.

He served as commander-in-chief of the ROK fleet command and deputy chief of the Operations Department at Navy Headquarters.

Kim was also fleet commander of the ROK Second Fleet Command and wing commander of the Naval Air Wing 6 Command.

ROK: Lawmaker Claims Chon Tu-hwan Gave Choe Kyu-ha 17.5 Billion Won

SK0604030696 Seoul YONHAP in English 0232 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP) — Former President Chon Tu-hwan collected a 274 billion won political fund from businesses after his successful coup d'etat in December 1979 and gave a 17.5 billion won cut to former President Choe Kyu-ha as "comfort money" for his retirement, Rep. Pak Kye-tong of the opposition Democratic Party claimed over the weekend.

At a press conference held in the party office, Pak said Hyundai and Daewoo were among the businesses which gave money to then Army Major General Chon commanding the Defense Security Command.

Chon used part of the money to purchase a building for the now-defunct Democratic Justice Party which he later headed in the latter half of the 1980s.

The building was later used by the New Korea Party (NKP) and the NKP recently sold it for 70 billion won to help raise a campaign fund.

Pak said the NKP should turn the money over to the state since it was derived from the sale of the building.

Pak, who divulged the existence of former President No Tae-u's slush fund which eventually led to his arrest on bribery charges, asserted that Chon gave Choe money on three occasions — 1 billion won on Dec. 13, 1979, 1.5 billion won on May 10, 1980 and 15 billion won on Aug. 5, 1980.

Chon used Kwon Chong-tal, then intelligence director of the Defense Security Command, and a certain Air Force Major Kim, Kwon's subordinate, to give the money to President Choe via his Chief Secretary Choe Kwang-su, he explained.

The Air Force major still holds a copy of the receipt Choe Kwang-su signed after receiving the money, Pak claimed.

ROK: Government To Establish Information Planning Office

SK0704015496 (Internet) The Joong-Ang Ilbo WWW in English 7 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chongwadae [presidential offices], the Ministry of Information and Communication (MOIC) and the Ministry of Government Administration decided to establish an Information Planning Office, which will oversee various national projects on information, and will reshuffle government organizations in order to place the new office under MOIC. Accordingly, MOIC will be transformed into an organization with three offices from the current two offices under its wing.

ROK: Cambodia Reportedly Interested in Establishing Ties

SK0504070596 (Internet) The Digital Chosun Ilbo WWW in English 1206 GMT 4 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cambodia, a country with traditional, friendly relations with North Korea, is hurriedly working to establish normalization of relations with South Korea Japanese newspaper ASAHI reported on Friday. Currently the only country in South East Asia with which South Korea does not have diplomatic relations, the movement toward recognition comes in the wake of the counterfeit dollars incident involving North Korean diplomats.

Cambodia was seen to be particularly displeased that North Korean diplomats were caught in a passenger car with bogus dollars in their possession. Also, Cambodia is hoping to attract investments from South Korea ahead of joining ASEAN.

ROK: President Kim Yong-sam Calls For Expediting Economic Reform

SK0804094896 Seoul YONHAP in English 0503 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 8 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam on Monday instructed the administration to expedite the reform of economic institutions and deregulation.

"Institutional reform in all economic sectors including financing, taxation, trade and union-management relations must be pushed ahead in earnest in the second quarter of the year," the chief executive said. "In particular, unnecessary restrictions must be eliminated and institutional reforms completed by the end of the year."

Kim also noted that the country is expected to join the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in the near future.

Kim issued the order at a Chongwadae [presidential offices] meeting of nine economic ministers headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Finance and Economy Minister Na Ung-pae plus the heads of the Fair Trade Commission and the Small and Medium Business Administration.

The gathering was designed to address economic policies for the second quarter.

Kim said, "The economic laws and institutions must be made transparent and an atmosphere favorable for fair transactions created in an effort to eradicate the corruption and irregularities that hinder the healthy socio-economic development."

Kim also instructed that hurdles facing small and medium-sized businesses be removed, and that medium- and long-term measures for supporting marginal merchants be worked out and implemented.

Finance and Economy Minister Na, meanwhile, reported that priority will be given to improving the high-cost and low-efficiency economic arrangement.

To improve the high-cost structure, he said, wage negotiations will be induced to produce wage increases that fall within the bounds of productivity, currency will be managed flexibly, and the financing and trust system will be improved to maintain stable interest rates.

A comprehensive infrastructure expansion plan will also be formulated and enacted by the end of June to reduce distribution costs for businesses, according to Na.

ROK: Seoul To Submit EEZ Bill to New National Assembly

SK0504063896 (Internet) The Joong-Ang Ilbo WWW in English 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The South Korean government, currently mapping out a concrete bill on exclusive economic zone (EEZ), plans to submit the bill to the newly formed National Assembly after the general elections on April 11. A Foreign Ministry official stated on the 4th that "inter-ministry consultations are underway on issues concerning the EEZ bill. The government plans to submit the bill as soon as it is finalized to the Assembly even before its regular session opens." The Japanese government has already presented its bill on EEZ to the Diet in January.

ROK: 'Radical Students' Protest Death of Activist

OW0704072696 Hong Kong AFP in English 0703 GMT 7 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Apirl 7 (AFP) — Some 1,000 radical students armed with firebombs and steel pipes fought riot police here Sunday over the death of an activist who died in an anti-government demonstration.

Protestors hurled hundreds of firebombs at police after charging out of Seoul National University, demanding an apology from President Kim Yong-sam for the death of No Su-sok.

No was found dead on March 29 after being chased by riot police.

Riot police fired tear gas to block the students from marching into the nearby streets. No arrests or serious injures were reported.

Students staged a wave of anti-government protests after suspending No's funeral, which was to have been held on Thursday.

The students have rejected an autopsy report that No has died of natural causes, insisting excessive force by riot police caused his death.

ROK: Government Opens Food, Drug Safety Headquarters

SK0704015696 (Internet) The Joong-Ang Ilbo WWW in English 7 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ministry of Health and Welfare inaugurated the Food and Drug Safety Headquarters on the 6th. Provincial Administrative offices in Seoul, Pusan and Inchon will begin operations on the 10th, and the other three Administrative offices in Taegu, Kwangju and Taejon on the 20th.

The Ministry stated that the agency, modeled after the United Nations Food and Drug Administration, will secure the safety of food and drugs which are distributed in Korea, and make a final ruling on disputes on harmful substances.

Burma

Burma: Securities Agreement Signed With Japanese Firm

BK0504155896 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] To develop monetary, investment, and share markets, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue's Myanmar [Burma] Economic Bank and the Daiwa Institute of Research Company Limited of Japan signed a business agreement establishing the Myanmar Securities and Exchange Center Company Limited, a joint venture company, at the finance and revenue minister's office meeting hall in the Central Bank of Myanmar Building at No.26-A, Sethmu Road, Yankin Township today.

The ceremony was attended by Lieutenant General Tin Tun, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and deputy prime minister; Brigadier General Abel, minister of national planning and economic development; Brig. Gen. Win Tin, minister of finance and revenue; and U Win Naing, deputy minister of finance and revenue.

Burma: SLORC Issues Supplementary Appropriations Law

BK0504142396

[FBIS Report] Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR in English on 26 and 27 March carries the text of State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] Law No. 3/96 — The State Supplementary Appropriation Law of 1996 — signed and issued by SLORC Chairman Senior General Than Shwe.

The law has three chapters with three tabular schedules. It allots supplementary expenditures in addition to the appropriations allotted under the 1995 State Budget Law. It appropriates 30 billion kyats in addition to the amount of loans actually received after the execution of loan agreements mentioned in Section 12 of the 1995 State Budget Law.

Schedules 1, 2, and 3 detail the supplementary expenditures allotted in kyats as follows:

Schedule 1: SLORC, Multiparty Democracy General Election Commission, Government, Chief Justice, Attorney General, and Auditor General.

	Ordinary Expenditures	Contributions	Capital Expenditures
SLORC	26,165,000		10,630,000
Government	7,250,000	2,418,000	164,499,000
Chief Justice	1,250,000		420,000
Attorney General	8,718,000		1,371,000
Auditor General	9,300,000		
Total	43,383,000	2,418,000	186,220,000

Schedule 2: Ministries and Departments.

	Ordinary Expenditures	Contributions	Capital Expenditures
Foreign Affairs	5,370,000	348,000	15,074,980
Defense	759,022,000		5,662,238,000
Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs	6,117,030	192,000,000	306,338,040
Home Affairs	286,087,000	117,592,000	118,459,800
Religious Affairs	30,028,000		5,145,000
Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement	5,958,000	2,430,000	26,655,000
Information	2,747,000		46,025,000
Culture	13,746,000		216,549,240
Education	90,931,000		790,657,600
Health	16,660,000		274,261,000
Labor	946,000		540,000
Forestry	23,143,000	45,300	96,245,980
Agriculture	543,884,000		3,668,413,000
Livestock Breeding and Fisheries	1,256,000		13,276,000
Mines	702,000		475,000
Industry No. 1	75,000		
Energy	249,000		
Construction	344,977,000		1,555,294,000
Transport	1,416,000		662,489,770

	Ordinary Expenditures	Contributions	Capital Expenditures
Rail Transport	906,000		
Communications, Post, and Telegraphs			3,596,000
Trade	4,109,000		397,000
Hotels and Tourism Services	1,736,000		2,347,000
Cooperatives	154,000		44,275,000
National Planning and Economic Development	7,642,000		267,000
Finance and Revenue	212,872,000	1,450,852,000	54,177,900
Pension and Gratuities	311,240,000		
Immigration and Population	767,000		12,029,700
Total	2,654,740,030	1,763,267,300	13,575,227,010

Schedule 3: State Economics Organizations.

Ordinary Expenditures	20,303,700,200
Capital Expenditures	4,447,365,550

Burma: Khin Nyunt Receives Leaders From Northern Shan State

BK0504155596 Rangoon TV Myanmar Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, chairman of the Work Committee for the Development of Border Areas and National Races and secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], received National Leader U Mong Sa La, and his party comprising U Li Ni Ming, U Hong Law Si, U Ai Kyaw, U Ganam, U Marang Gan, and U Kyaw Nyunt, from the peace-achieved Northern Shan State Special Region-1, Mong Ko region, at the Defense Services Guest House on Uyin Road at 1330 today.

Also present were Health Minister Vice Admiral Than Nyunt, Information Minister Major General Aye Kyaw, Education Minister U Pan Aung; U Kyaw Tin, deputy minister of progress of border areas and national races and development affairs; Deputy Construction Minister U Aung San, Deputy Forestry Affairs Minister U Aung Phone, Lieutenant Colonel Pe Nyein, director general of the SLORC Office; departmental heads, and responsible personnel.

At the meeting, discussions were held on transportation, education, health, agriculture, and regional development issues.

Burma: Khun Sa Said To Decline Governorship of Shan Capital

BK0804055596 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES in English 8 Apr 96 p A1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mae Hong Son — Former Shan drug warlord Khun Sa has reportedly refused the Burmese State Law and Order Restoration Council's [SLORC] offer of the governorship of the town of Ho Mong.

Instead, he proposed for his son to take the position, but the Burmese rejected the idea, according to a military border source.

It was believed Khun Sa did not accepted the governor post of his former headquarters, which is also the capital of the Shan state, because he has to run several businesses of his own including gem trading, logging and banking in Rangoon.

The former Mong Thai Army (MTA) leader is believed to be living in a luxurious mansion in Rangoon owned by the Burmese junta. His residence is being guarded by military officers around the clock.

Khun Sa, 61, and his MTA surrendered to the SLORC on January 5 this year after almost 50 years of fighting with the Rangoon government. Khun Sa claimed he was a Shan nationalist fighting for the Shan state's autonomy. He is also wanted by the United States on drug-trafficking charges. The US government has placed US$2 million bounty on his head.

When the drug lord surrendered himself to Rangoon, many of the MTA military men were enraged and went into hiding along the Thai border. They have recently begun attacks on Khun Sa, whom they regard as a turncoat, and the SLORC. The MTA has vowed to continue fighting for Shan autonomy.

In other developments, the Burmese army has deployed two battalions opposite Ban Huai Phueng in Mae Hong Son's Muang district, said the same Thai military border source. Several checkpoints have been established by the Burmese troops along routes leading to various provinces in the Shan state.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Malaysia: Australia's Hayden's 'Racist' Accusations Noted

BK0804114796 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0810 GMT 6 Apr 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Just as a newly elected government sets about mending fences with the neighboring countries that have been damaged by the previous administration, a former cabinet minister has attempted to throw a spanner in the works. Former Australian Governor General Bill Hayden accused some neighboring Asian countries of racism and racial intolerance, making particular mention of Malaysia and Indonesia.

Hayden, who was the Labor Government's foreign minister between 1983 and 1987 also made a very undiplomatic remark in criticizing by name — the head of a foreign government. He accused Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed of being a racist and carrying out a policy of racial discrimination.

In an interview in a Sydney radio show, Hayden also described the Chinese as racial supremists and the Japanese as racial (?exclusive). His comments came just as the new Australian foreign minister, Mr. Alexander Downer, announced that he would visit Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand later this month. Downer called relations with Asia as being his government's highest foreign policy priority.

Hayden's comments strike a raw nerve, not with the Asian countries that he disparages but within his own country and all Australia. Canberra has not been able to (?live) down its notorious White Australia policy of yesteryear when it used to admit on the immigrants of Caucasian descent. In later years, it allowed very restrictive entry of permanent residents from Asia and this continues to this day.

Australia also gained notoriety throughout the world for its treatment of its very own indigenous people, the Aborigines. In this second (stance), it is at the very [word indistinct] out of place for any Australian political personality to talk of racial issues concerning other countries.

The current Australian Government was quick to distance itself from Hayden's remarks. Foreign Minister Downer said neither he nor his government agrees with Hayden's view, which in fact contends that Australia is a tolerant society that is surrounded by intolerance neighbors.

It will be interesting to note whether any other Australian politician comes out in support of Hayden's view of Australia and its neighbors. It is ironic that the leader of its own party, former Labor Prime Minister Paul Keating, was insisting during his tenure that Australia is part of Asia.

The countries criticized by Hayden do not seem to be perturbed by this. Obviously, he is regarded as being out of step with the time. Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir described him as a frustrated politician. Although he was personally criticized by Hayden, Dr. Mahathir firmly maintained that this will have no impact on the relations between Malaysia and Australia, which are warming up since the Liberal-National party coalition won the Australian general elections in March

It cannot be denied that the center of world economic growth has shifted to the Asia-Pacific region, particularly East Asia. It cannot also be denied that Australia is struggling to get on its feet after its debilitating recession. Most of the observers would agree that Australia needs Asia more than Asia needs Australia. Were Canberra would like to pass itself off as a member of a family of Western nations, the truth is that Asia is its main trading partner, its economic lifeline. Then who needs close economic ties with its Asian neighbors who need to pull itself up.

As a senior Malaysian politician put it, perhaps Hayden is from the old school of thought in Australia, which just cannot accept the rapid development taking place in Asia. The policy of racial discrimination that Hayden claimed Dr. Mahathir practices is in fact a strategy of positive action that is enabling the indigenous people of Malaysia to share in the country's growing prosperity. This policy has been applauded by countries everywhere as the right form of social engineering. It is in fact recommended by the World Bank for adoption by other developing countries.

South Africa, after freeing itself from its own racial policy of apartheid, is already using Malaysia as a model in creating strategies and programs that are helping the black people advance economically and socially even as the economic cake expands to accommodate the [word indistinct] of the colored and white people.

People in most Asian countries including Malaysia and Indonesia regard Australians as being warm and friendly. People-to-people ties between Australia and these countries (?grow) very strong. The heavy two-day flow of tourists, business people, and other visitors is testimony to this.

In this increasingly interdependent world, it is simply out of place to badmouth others without any legitimate cause. There is a lot of mutual benefit to be gained by spreading goodwill, tolerance, and understanding.

It is a pity that Bill Hayden is unable to look beyond his nose and knows that he is in the air and prevents him from seeing what is actually happening on the ground.

Malaysia: Bosnian Peace Mediator Vows Conference To Continue

BK0704113396 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 7 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] International high representative to Bosnia-Herzegovina Carl Bildt has confirmed that the [peace] process conference will be held as scheduled even without the representatives of the Bosnian Serbs.

Speaking to reporters in Kuala Lumpur he said, the second donors' conference in Brussels will go ahead even though there is not much progress in the Serbs.

The two-day conference beginning on Friday is expected to be attended by 50 to 60 countries. The conference will raise the U.S.$1.2 billion in pledges for the reconstruction of Bosnia- Herzegovina this year to add to the U.S.$600 million pledges made last year.

Bildt arrived in Kuala Lumpur yesterday for a two-day stopover to seek Malaysia's support for the restructuring of the war-ravaged Balkan state. He said Malaysia played an important role among member countries in the Organization of Islamic Conference towards helping the reconstruction of former Yugoslavian state.

He said during his meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed and Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, both gentlemen indicated Malaysia's willingness to help in the reconstruction of Bosnia.

Malaysia: Marine Police Detain 10 Thais for Illegal Fishing

BK0804063396 Kuala Lumpur BERITA MINGGU in Malay 7 Apr 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Bachok — The Marine Police detained 10 Thai fishermen yesterday for encroaching into Malaysian territorial waters. They were caught in an area 15 nautical miles from Kuala Kemasin, near here. The authorities detained their motor boat and its skipper in an operation at about 1245.

Nik Abdul Wahab Mat Diah, director of the Kelantan State Fisheries Department, said the fishermen were from one of two trawlers caught fishing illegally in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). He said another trawler managed to escape with its skipper and crew members on board after the Marine Police gave chase for several kilometers.

"The boat and its fishing equipment as well as the fish caught are now being detained at Tawang fishing port, near here," he said. All the fishermen, between the ages of 11 and 41, are being held at the Bachok Police Station to face court charges under Section 15 (1:A) of the Fisheries Act of 1985. [passage omitted]

Singapore

Singapore: Minister on Role as 'Interpreter' of Asia for U.S.

BK0804005496 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 6 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Chung Tsung Mien in New York]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Singapore should learn to position itself skillfully as an interpreter of Asia for Americans, said Information and the Arts, and Health Minister George Yeo.

Describing Singapore as the "softest landing" into Asia for Americans, he said the city state was also an Americanised society which used English widely.

While both countries would remain separate nations, "in many ways we share many things in common and that is the basis for a good long-term strategic relationship, something which both sides do well to foster".

Brigadier-General (NS [national service]) Yeo, who is leading a 22-member Young PAP [People's Action Party] delegation on a two-week study and goodwill tour of the United States, was speaking to Singapore reporters at the close of the trip on Thursday.

He also noted that the majority of Americans lacked knowledge on China and the rest of Asia, and said he was concerned that this misunderstanding was compounded by insecurity over Asia's booming economies overtaking the North American economy.

"When misunderstanding is compounded by insecurity, people can become emotional in an unthinking and callous way and this can lead to accidents," he said.

He felt many in the West still believed they were in a previous era and had condescending attitudes towards Asia.

"For us, it is unimportant. But for them, it blinds them to developments taking place in Asia which they should be aware of and that is not good," he said at a press conference held at the office of the Singapore permanent mission to the United Nations.

Recalling that Asia had come under Western dominance in the past because Asians were too arrogant about their own accomplishments, he noted that China had declined when it closed itself to the world. Today, however, Asians had developed an instinct to learn from the West, and he urged the West to learn from Asia and promote dialogue and cooperation across the continents.

On Sino-U.S. relations, he said Singapore could help bridge the gap as it straddled both civilisations. Singaporeans, he added, had an "instinctive ability to switch channels" when dealing with different groups.

He said: "So when we are in America, they are always asking us about our views on China and Taiwan and we are prepared to share our views with them.

"When we meet the Chinese, they are always interested to know how we have been able to accept Western influences...without losing our Asian essence."

However, he did not feel that a clash between the U.S. and China was inevitable. America, he noted, had a generous culture and a breezy optimism whereas China had no desire to see a clash with the West.

In areas such as nuclear non-proliferation and trade, the Chinese were prepared to negotiate.

But on Taiwan, the Chinese had to take a strong position as it was an issue which was deeply emotional and something considered as fundamental.

The recent Taiwan Strait conflict should be a learning experience for all the parties involved, and he hoped they would recognise the wisdom of the original Shanghai communique's position of one China and a peaceful reunification.

He believed it was because a different generation of leaders had come into power that some aspects of this original foundation had been forgotten.

Over the past two weeks, the YP [Young PAP] delegation met legislators, journalists and academics to discuss the American political process. The tour began in Los Angeles and covered Salt Lake City, Washington and New York. The group left New York for Singapore yesterday.

Cambodia

Cambodia: King's DPRK Bodyguard Injures Co-Prime Minister

BK0604092896 Hong Kong AFP in English 0858 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Phnom Penh, April 6 (AFP) — An overzealous member of King Norodom Sihanouk's team of North Korean bodyguards ran into second Prime Minister Hun Sen seriously injuring the co-premier's left arm, witnesses said Saturday.

The Friday incident, which has left the second prime minister's arm in a sling, occurred in the east-central province of Kompong Cham which the king and Hun Sen were visiting to inaugurate a new market, they said.

"The North Koreans were rushing to surround the king and pushing Hun Sen's bodyguards out of the way," said one witness, who added that it appeared the North Koreans either did not see Hun Sen or did not know who he was.

One of the North Koreans then ran into Hun Sen who was in front of his own bodyguards, accidentally smashing the co-premier's left elbow with a holstered gun, according to the witnesses who include Hun Sen's brother, Hun Neng, the governor of Kompong Cham.

Hun Sen has received medical treatment for the injury which has left him unable to move his left arm below the elbow, according to sources close to the co-Premier.

"His arm is still in the sling," said one source, adding that the chief of the king's bodyguard unit had apologized for the incident.

"Hun Sen told him that from now on he would wear a sign on his back that explained who he was in Korean," the source said.

King Sihanouk's bodyguards, a gift to him from his close friend, the late North Korean leader Kim Il-Song, have frequently been the target of complaints from government officials, diplomats and others attending ceremonies at which the monarch is present.

Many have complained privately that the guards, who often appear to communicate only through monosyllabic grunts, are unnecessarily heavy-handed in protecting the king.

Cambodia: Ranariddh Discusses Border Talks, Future

BK0804105796 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 8 Apr 96

[Speech by Cambodian First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh at the inauguration of a monastery in Ang Snuol District, Kandal Province on 8 April — recorded]

[FBIS Summary] First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh begins his 33-minute speech by recalling the Royal Government's efforts to rebuild the nation after the 1993 election, following the initiatives of His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk.

Ranariddh reiterates what he had discussed recently, namely the the country's motto: "Nation, Religion, and King." Elaborating, Ranariddh says: "Our nation can have peace and development only through national union and national reconciliation. This is what all of you want, is it not? The people only ask for peace." He adds: "All the people ask is for us—the nation's leaders who have been selected through free elections—to be reconciled and to provide peace and happiness to the people who have suffered for over 20 years. I think the people will judge for themselves those who do not follow the correct path or who have deviated from national union and national reconciliation."

Referring to some people's concern about conflict within the country, Ranariddh says: "Occasionally, politicians have also slipped. Therefore, I would like to inform all of you that, as far as I am concerned—I do not want to talk about the party, just about myself—I pledge this to you: Please do not worry about the stance on national reconciliation. Follow the Prince Father [Sihanouk] and serve the people. Do not worry. A compromise will be worked out so that our nation will survive."

Ranariddh adds: "I am also concerned about the territory and territorial integrity issue. In two days, on 10 April, Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet will come to meet with both me and the samdech second prime minister. I hope that we, leaders of the nation and the Royal Government, will speak a common language when facing Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet of Vietnam. We will talk about the border problem that day. Therefore, I dare not say too much about this. The entire nation knows my own position on this issue. I only ask that the two prime ministers speak the same language when talking to the other side. If we do not speak the same language, we will be weak. This is my hope.

"All I ask is that Vietnam, which signed the 17 January 1995 joint statement in Hanoi, respect that joint statement. Our nation will be strong if we are strong internally. Others will respect us when our nation is strong. We are not saying that others are afraid of us. They are much bigger than us, but they will respect us and respect our independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Those around Cambodia—please do understand this—Cambodian territory keeps shrinking. Therefore, please stop making demands. Cambodia does not ask for much, only peace. It has only this much territory; let it live with this. Some people have said to me that others are big; Thailand has over 60 million people and Vietnam over 70 million. Therefore, we have to listen to them. This cannot be done when we talk about the nation. Our nation has suffered and has shrunk to this size. Therefore, you cannot bully those who are small just because you are big. This is not right. Is that not so?"

Ranariddh then likens Cambodia's situation to that of Luxembourg and Monaco in Europe, where these small countries can live without being bullied by big neighbors. He says: "I just want to inform you about this. Here at the monastery I want to talk only about the nation and how to enable it to survive. We Cambodians very much want to be at peace with others and to be reconciled with them. Is that not so? We want to be on good terms with Thailand, even though I do not know with whom the latter is involved. I dare not mention them so as not to be accused of discussing this issue again. Whatever Vietnam wants to do, I want to be reconciled and have peace.

"The prince father the king said that we will be satisfied with the recognition of our current borders by others. We have lost Kampuchea Kraom [former Cambodian territory now part of southern Vietnam] and also Surin, Buriram, and Sisaket Provinces, and others, to Thailand. This should be enough. We are in the 20th-21st centuries; one no longer annexes the territory of others. All Cambodia asks for is peace and reconciliation. If we are refused peace, however, I am sorry; Cambodians also cannot accept it. Is that not so? We have to unite and defend Cambodia's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity."

Ranariddh then discusses religion and says that "apart from the royalist regime, no one uses the motto 'Nation, Religion, and King'. Other things were used. I dare not talk about this for fear of stepping on others' toes. Only the royalist regime clearly talks about the nation, followed immediately by religion."

Ranariddh goes on to say that "Buddhism prospers whenever the royalist regime is present."

Ranariddh then recalls a recent speech made by King Norodom Sihanouk in which the king had said that Western countries and the United States have preached to Cambodia about human rights and pointed out that Buddhism respects human rights above anything else. Sihanouk had also said that Buddhism is 2540 years old, while the United Nations was only born in 1945.

Ranariddh adds: "All Cambodians, all those leading the nation, please simply observe Buddhism's five precepts regularly, and we will be alright and reconciled."

After elaborating on the five precepts, including the prohibition against killing living things, Ranariddh discusses the Royal Government's efforts to rehabilitate the Buddhist religion. He appeals to monks to contribute to educating youths. He thanks generous people in the

United States who have provided over $20,000 to rebuild the monastery and praises those who have contributed to this effort.

Ranariddh then discusses his desire to enter the monkhood. He says: "People keep talking and asking me when I will become a monk, since I keep talking about this. First, I am busy. Second, the monastery is not yet completed. Some reporters even misunderstood this, saying that I would be ordained in India. Why should a Cambodian be ordained in India? A Cambodian will be ordained in Cambodia. Why will I go into the monkhood? As I said, the throne is linked to the Buddhist religion. First, by tradition, royal members should be ordained to show that they are the pillars supporting Buddhism. Second, Buddhism is the state's religion. Third, I have been ordered by His Majesty the King to serve him and to lead the national liberation movement.

"Many compatriots, thousands of them, have died in this struggle; they have sacrificed their lives for the nation. Therefore, I do not have anything to repay them. The king has ordered me to lead the movement. I have nothing to repay those patriots who were wounded or killed. I made a pledge at that time. I will enter the monkhood to repay those heroes who have sacrificed their lives so that our nation survive. I myself have nothing with which to repay these compatriots whom I have the great honor to lead, except to become a monk."

Finally, Ranariddh conveys wishes to everyone on the eve of the traditional new year and appeals to the Khmer Rouge. He says: "The Khmer Rouge do not love or respect Buddhism; however, the majority of Khmer Rouge members are Buddhists. Therefore, I have no other wish at the new year than to see Cambodians be genuinely reconciled to provide peace and happiness to the Cambodian people and to the Kingdom of Cambodia for thousands of years to come. This is all I ask for in front of the Lord Buddha. Please be reconciled. The problems are minimal. Ensure that the people have peace and hope."

Ranariddh also says: "Please do not be too concerned about the election in 1998; please do not rush. It is more than two years from now. Just strive to work to serve the nation and to develop the nation. The people are innocent and reasonable. They are fair to leaders. They will recognize the ones who serve the nation well."

In conclusion, Ranariddh says: "Please do not be too worried. Astrologers have made predictions. At times we have to believe them. Astrologers in France, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Cambodia have all predicted that there would be some minor problems in 1996. This has turned out to be true. Do not worry, however. Beginning in 1997 and onward, the Kingdom of Cambodia will have peace for thousands of years."

Cambodian Khmer Rouge Blames Government for Forest Destruction

BK0804055196 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 7 Apr 96

[Unattributed commentary: "The Two-Headed Lackeys of Genocidal Communist Vietnam Have Destroyed Forests in Preah Vihear and Other Regions Throughout Cambodia, Whereas the Cambodian National and People's Forces and Democratic Kampuchea Have Protected Cambodia's Forests and Defended the Cambodian Nation and Race"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 6 April a U.S. puppet named (Chun Sakda) reported on a row among communist Vietnam's two-headed lackeys over the cutting of Preah Vihear Province's forests and the sale of timber to foreign traders.

It has become second nature for the U.S. stooges to blame the people and Democratic Kampuchea [DK], whether or not they have evidence or reason. The Cambodian nation and people know it is the extremely corrupt and thieving two-headed lackeys of communist Vietnam and the United States that have destroyed Cambodia's forests. They have destroyed forests in Preah Vihear Province and all provinces of the country. They have signed contracts to sell hundreds of thousands and even millions of square kilometers of forest, permitting foreign businessmen to cut and destroy Cambodia's forests for as long as 70 years and even hundreds of years. Every two-headed chieftain — civilian and military — owns three or four timber companies, each with a fleet of dozens or hundreds of trucks.

These people regularly fight with one another in a constant scramble over forest concessions. Last year, the Preah Vihear provincial forces quarreled and exchanged gunfire with soldiers from the 1st Military Region in Preah Vihear over contacts with foreign businessmen. This gunfight resulted in the deaths of several Cambodian and Thai workers and a number of soldiers.

It is obvious that the traitorous two-headed lackeys of communist Vietnam and the United States have destroyed Cambodia's forests. Every day they cut and destroy thousands or tens of thousands of trees in Cambodia's forests. In Preah Vihear Province alone, they have cut about 400,000 cubic meters of timber in preparation for export. Their plan was checked when the Cambodian people and DK attacked them and cut off their transportation lines. The Cambodian people and the DK, therefore, have protected Cambodia's forests and natural resources, whereas the traitorous two-headed lackeys of communist Vietnam and the United States have destroyed Cambodia's forests and natural resources.

First among the chiefs of the timber cutters are Hun Sen, Ranariddh, and Sar Kheng followed by the lesser chiefs Khan Savoeun, Long Sopheap, and Meas Sophea. They are followed in importance by Prum Samen, Huot Chhieng, Srei Doek, and all provincial committee members. All of them have colluded with communist Vietnam to commit genocide against Cambodia and destroy all of Cambodia's natural resources. These chief traitors and brigands are known to everybody.

As [UN human rights representative] Michael Kirby said not so long ago, everything bad is always blamed on the Khmer Rouge. The Khmer Rouge are the DK. Everyone in the country and abroad knows them very well. They have joined with the Cambodian nation and people in attacking the communist Vietnamese aggressors for the past 17 years. They are continuing to attack both communist Vietnam and its two-headed lackeys to preserve and perpetuate the Cambodian nation and race and preserve Cambodia's forests and all its natural resources.

Thailand

Thailand: U.S Request for Extradition of Suspects Considered

BK0604093596 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Apr 96 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] One of 10 alleged members of Khun Sa's drug trafficking organisation arrested in Thailand in 1994 could be extradited to stand trial on drugs charges in America if the Cabinet approves a Foreign Ministry proposal.

An informed Government House source said the Cabinet is expected to consider the issue at its meeting on Tuesday [9 April].

The Foreign Ministry has asked it to revoke a January 17 1995 cabinet resolution allowing a Thai court to consider if the United States' request for extradition of the ten suspects could be met, the source said.

According to the source the Foreign Ministry made the proposal after Chao Fu-sheng, otherwise known as Wicha Sitthiphan or Sombun Khamdaeng, made a formal request to be extradited to the United States.

Under Article 15 of a 1983 Thai-US treaty relating to extradition, if a request for extradition is made by a suspect the government of the country where he/she was arrested can decide to extradite him/her to the other signatory country right away without having to go through legal procedures.

But the extradition of Chao Fu-sheng could be expedited only if the January 17 1995 cabinet resolution, which allowed a Thai court to look into the matter, is revoked.

The court would continue considering whether the other nine can be extradited.

Chao Fu-sheng and the nine other suspects were arrested in separate raids in Bangkok, Mae Hong Son, Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai in November 1994 at the request of the US Drug Enforcement Administration.

They are currently being held at Bang Khwang Prison.

The US request for the arrest and extradition of the suspects was made under two bilateral agreements — the 1929 Extradition Act and the 1983 Extradition Treaty.

The US government had supplied information to Thailand about 20 suspects — including the 10 — who had been indicted by a New York court on suspicion of being linked to an attempt to smuggle 300 kg of heroin into the US three years ago.

As well as Chao Fu-sheng's request, the Foreign Ministry also based its decision on his extradition on the case involving Thanong Siriprichaphong.

Thanong, a former Chat Thai MP, was extradited to the United States in January this year also on drugs charges.

The source said the Office of the Attorney-General has agreed with the Foreign Ministry's decision.

If the Cabinet approves the ministry's proposal, Chao Fu-sheng will be the second drugs suspect extradited by Thailand to the United States, following Thanong.

Thai Officials Comment on Threat of U.S. Trade Action

BK0704070796 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Apr 96 p 22

[Report by Somphon Thapanachai and Chatrudi Thepharat]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thai authorities have been told to get tougher on patent infringements, otherwise the United States may put Thailand back on the priority watch-list for retaliatory action.

A crackdown on infringements is necessary as the US is closely monitoring amendments to Thailand's patent law and the establishment of intellectual property and international trade courts, according to a committee on international economic coordination chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan.

Many quarters were worried the Thai Government had softened its suppression of patent violations since Thailand was removed from the priority watch-list and placed on the lower-level ordinary watch- list, he said yesterday.

The committee has urged the government to pass laws ensuring protection of intellectual property rights is watertight.

Kroekkrai Chiraphaet, director-general of the business economics department, said the US should not put Thailand on the priority watch-list as Bangkok had taken substantial steps to improve intellectual property right protection.

Dr Amnuai recently gave US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor details of progress made by Thailand on the issue. He also gave details of planned measures to remove trade barriers for American products.

The Washington administration is due to announce its classification list of countries under section 301 of the Trade Act within 30 days of the issue of the 1996 edition of the National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers. This report was issued on Monday.

Thailand has been on the ordinary watch-list since November 16, 1994. If the US finds any country on the list has failed to protect intellectual property rights, negotiations are held for a specific period to allow the country to counter US claims.

Mr Kroekkrai said there was no justification for the US to place Thailand on the priority list.

The US Trade Estimate Report claims measures to protect intellectual property rights in Thailand, such as the Thai Patent Act of 1992, are still far behind international standards as agreed under the framework for Trade Related to Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs).

The enforcement of Thailand's patent law is not sufficiently effective, resulting in American firms having to pay patent registration fees at levels six to seven times higher than what they pay in the US, according to the report.

The report also claims Thailand has failed to safeguard material protected by US copyright statutes as agreed under the Uruguay Round of world trade talks.

Dr Amnuai told Mr Kantor Thailand's Patent Act had been amended and was awaiting approval by the cabinet.

Thailand also counters US claims over the cost of patent registration by pointing out that in Thailand the fee is ten times cheaper than in the US. The cost per case in Thailand is US$120, while it is $1,400 in the US.

Mr Kroekkrai said Thailand had fully enforced the Copyright Law, but copyright owners must cooperate with the Thai Government to protect their rights.

He said some private companies with businesses related to intellectual property had asked the US government to restore Thailand to the priority list. The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America had claimed that Thailand's enforcement of the Patent Act was still not effective, and that the country had problems over pipeline (retroactive) protection, compulsory licensing and imports of products to fulfil conditions under the patent rights.

The manufacturers want their government to put Thailand on the priority list with other 12 countries including China, Japan, New Zealand, Brazil, Indonesia, Israel, South Korea, Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras.

The International Intellectual Property Alliance, American Film Association, Interactive Digital Software Association and Motion Picture Association have asked the US government to put Thailand on the priority list. They said the Thai Government did not give enough protection to audio-visual works and put more emphasis on the protection of musical and sound recordings.

Mr Kroekkrai said the trade estimate report had claimed that Thailand still imposed high import tariffs on nine products from the US including vehicles, paper, paper products, potato chips, medicine, spirits and wine, photo film and cameras.

The report claimed Thailand imposed non-tariff barriers against the import of motorcycles and oranges from California and Arizona, he said.

But Thailand countered by saying it was committed to reduce import tariffs as agreed under the Uruguay Round to 20-80% by the year 2005; and tariffs introduced early this year were 60-110%.

Thailand has already allowed imports of oranges from California under an agreement between the Department of Agriculture and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the US.

Thailand: 'No Progress' Reported in Border Talks With Burma

BK0604095996 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Apr 96 p 6

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thai and Burmese officials made no progress yesterday in talks to settle disputes over border demarcation and the Thai-Burmese Friendship Bridge.

A source on the sub-committee reviewing the Thai-Burmese border along the Moei River, said Burma's refusal to resume construction of the bridge and cross-border trade were major obstacles during the talks.

The Burmese authorities claimed they did not have the power to make such decisions and must forward Thailand's requests to Rangoon for consideration, according to the source.

Both sides also failed to settle problems relating to disputed border areas along the Moei River which forms the demarcation line between Mae Sot district in Thailand and Myawadi in Burma.

The 16-man Thai sub-committee, led by Treaties and Legal Affairs Department chief Sombun Sa-ngiambut, jointly inspected disputed areas at Ban Rim Moei with 20 Burmese officials led by Mr Sombun's counterpart, U Aye Lwin, before yesterday's meeting in Myawadi.

The source said both sides insisted on using their own aerial maps of the border, which were taken in 1989, as the evidence on which to base the review.

The officials were unable to sign an agreement to certify the border line, however, as Burma was not satisfied with the channel dug in the Moei River by Thailand.

Thailand claims it followed the original course when it dug the channel.

The source said Thailand had already proved its sincerity in solving the border disputes by demolishing the concrete buildings and stalls which allegedly encroached on the river and digging the new channel.

Burma, meanwhile, has reportedly ignored complaints lodged by Thailand against the construction of a concrete wall on the Burmese side of the border, the source said.

Thailand: Foreign Ministry Receives Russian Deputy Minister

BK0604100096 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Apr 96 p 2

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand has asked Russia to buy more of its competitively priced products in a bid to reduce the trade deficit.

Foreign Permanent Secretary Thep Thewakun said Thailand had suggested Russia buy more of its computer hardware, furniture and electrical equipment, since it is cheaper than importing the products from the United States and Italy.

Trade between the two countries now totals US$1.6 billion in value, with Russian sales to Thailand worth $1.2 billion and Thai exports to Russia worth $400 million, creating an $800 million deficit for Thailand.

The issue was discussed by M.R. [Mom Ratchawong — royal title] Thep and visiting Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov, who arrived in Bangkok on Thursday [4 April].

Thailand and Russia formed a Joint Commission to look at trade in 1993. Both sides will meet under its banner for the first time in September in Moscow.

Thailand is interested in opening a consular office in St Petersburg to oversee trade and Thai investment and to promote tourism, Deputy Foreign Ministry spokesman Thinakon Kannasut said.

"The two countries are studying the possibility of having investment promotion and protection laws," he added.

M.R. Thep said Russia had also proposed setting-up a business council to strengthen Russian and Thai private sectors. Moscow also invited Thai business firms to study its market and talks included design technology and academic exchange.

[Bangkok THE NATION in English on 6 April adds: "Russia has sent strong signals through Thailand that it wants to establish closer relations with the Asia Pacific region, in particular with ASEAN. In his meeting with Foreign Minister Kasemsamoson Kasemsi yesterday, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov said his country wanted to upgrade its current status with ASEAN and to participate in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation and the next Asia Europe Meeting, according to Permanent Secretary Thep Thewakun. Moscow currently participates in some ASEAN activities, such as the ASEAN Regional Forum, as a dialogue partner. Thep said Russia is keen on establishing closer links with Southeast Asia and wants to increase its role in the region. On bilateral issues, Thep said Thailand and Russia agreed to hold their first joint commission in September to promote and strengthen bilateral ties in various areas. The venue is tentatively set for Moscow."]

Thailand: Minister Chawalit Chairs Antinarcotics Meeting

BK0804004196 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Apr 96 p A2

[Report by Parit Iamphongphaibun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Next year's budget for antinarcotics activities may be more than doubled to Bt [baht] 2.1 billion to fund 174 projects, Defence Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut said yesterday.

The proposed amount, which has already been examined once by the Budget Bureau and will be submitted to the National Assembly later this year, is more than Bt1.2 billion higher than the 1996 budget of Bt870 million for anti-drug projects.

Chawalit yesterday chaired a meeting of the Office of Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) which considered the draft budget for 1997 drug suppression activities.

"The government will not adopt outdated or old measures to crack down on drug activities. We will try to suppress them permanently," he said.

A source from the meeting said 12 ministries were assigned drug suppression projects funded by the proposed budget allocation, which was itself initially proposed to be Bt2.3 billion. The Budget Bureau trimmed the amount down to Bt2.1 billion after its initial consideration of the draft, the source said.

The Interior Ministry had the highest proposed allocation of funds, Bt1 billion, as it is directly responsible for suppressing drug activities. The next highest allocations would go to the Prime Minister's Office, Bt518 million, and the Public Health Ministry Bt278 million.

Thai Supreme Commander: Military To Limit Arms Purchases

BK080400459 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Apr 96 p A3

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Supreme Commander Gen Wirot Saengsanit said yesterday that the military would cooperate with the government in minimizing the current account deficit by limiting arms purchases.

However, Wirot said he had "reached an understanding" with Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha that the government had not blamed the military for the deficit. On Wednesday [3 April], Government spokesman Somsak Pritsanananthakun said Banhan had asked the armed forces to draw up a priority list for arms purchases and said it was necessary in the face of the country's rising current account deficit. "I and the prime minister have reached an understanding over the issue," Wirot said.

"Somsak had made the comment because of a misunderstanding. The prime minister did not accuse the military of being responsible for the current account deficit.

"The prime minister simply wishes to know what the military plans to buy and wants the Defence Ministry to comply with the purchasing list."

Wirot said military spending should not be blamed for the deficit because the military had planned its purchases in advance.

"But the military is willing to help the government any way it can. I can put off some purchases because our armed forces development plans are flexible," Wirot said.

Meanwhile, a military columnist, Lt Col Thakthiam Yiamnakhon, in the latest edition of ARMY NEWS, an in-house newsletter, strongly criticized the press for blaming the military for the current account deficit. In his column, Thakthiam defended the military's spending and said he was "infuriated" by the reports.

Thailand: Army Columnist Defends Weapons Purchases

BK0804004796 Bangkok SIAM POST in Thai 6 Apr 96 pp 1, 16

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant Colonel Thatthiam Yiamnakhon, Army News bulletin columnist, has written in the latest issue to disprove the disclosure recently made by Somsak Pritsananantakun, spokesman of the Prime Minister's Office, who blamed the country's current account deficit on the arms purchases of the three armed forces.

In the column entitled "Current Account Deficit...Is the Military the Culprit No. 2?", Colonel Thatthiam said: Like any ordinary military officer, I have never harbored any ill-intention against anyone or had the ambition to do anything to gain free publicity. However, right after reading the report on the spokesman's statement, "Honestly, I must tell you that I was extremely infuriated."

Colonel Thatthiam went on to say that the report gave him a few points to ponder, which are as follows: 1. The country has a current account deficit. 2. There deficit has many causes. However, it is believed that the military arms purchases is the major cause. 3. The military spends extravagantly without thinking of the country's financial situation. 4. Soldiers are stupid. They are only good at spending hundreds of thousand baht to buy weapons but poor when it comes to performing their duties.

"I was infuriated and disheartened by the report," Colonel Thatthiam said in his column. Thailand is reportedly suffering from a 300 billion baht current account deficit, which is equivalent to 7.3 percent of the GDP, while 20 billion baht had been spent for military arms purchases. The people see the military as extravagant.

Colonel Thatthiam pointed out that the military has spent only 9 billion baht, not 20 billion baht as reported, to buy arms. Most of our weapons are 20 to 30 years old. Something has to be done to maintain our military strength for the sake of national defense. The government can reject any request to buy arms if it does not have the money. The military understands and will not get angry. The supreme commander himself said that if the arms purchase request is rejected, the military will have to use old weapons. There are several reasons for the current account deficit. For example, the import of machinery, luxury cars, and expensive French wine, and concerts staged by foreign singers. It is also due to the visits by government delegations to foreign countries, where each trip can cost from 10 to 20 million baht. Spending only 9 billion baht for arms purchase is quite reasonable. Our neighbors spend much more.

"At first, I was upset by Somsak's accusation," Colonel Thatthiam said, adding that there is no point being frustrated at the person, who is known for his amiableness. Besides, he noted, some people might try to set the government and military against one another. Therefore, I would like to ask anyone who personally knows the spokesman to tell him that "what he said has really disheartened us."

Meanwhile, Supreme Commander General Wirot Saengsanit stressed during an interview that Thailand's deficit was not due to military spending because it will only buy weapons according to plans drawn up in advance. The military is willing to help the government any way it can. For example, we can put off some purchases.

The supreme commander said: "The prime minister and I have reached an understanding on the issue. Somsak made the comment because of a misunderstanding. The prime minister did not blame the military for the deficit. He simply wishes to know what the military plans to buy and wants the Defense Ministry to comply with the purchasing list."

General Phaibun Emphan, permanent secretary of the Defense Minister, also reaffirmed that the military cannot simply go out and buy anything it wants. The purchases must be done according to plan and the country's economic situation. If the cost is high, the purchase must be done on a reciprocal basis to help reduce the trade deficit. The purchasing procedures was clearly explained to the prime minister at the Defense Council meeting last Thursday. The military spending of our neighboring countries is as high as 5 percent of their GDP, while ours is only 2.4 percent. The army commander was right when he said that the military must lower its purchase requirements to save the country's economy from bankruptcy. The armed forces are not insistent in this regard. So far, the military has only gotten 80 percent of its budget.

Defense Minister General Chawalit Yongchaiyut said there is no problem. Everyone has agreed that the armed forces will not put extra burdens on the country. If necessary, military spending will be reduced. Its spending this year rose by only 7 percent.

The defense minister declined to talk about the military satellite program, saying that the issue is being forwarded to the cabinet for consideration. Meanwhile, Cabinet Secretary General Witsanu Khrua-ngam disclosed that the Navy has already submitted the submarine purchase plan for comments and review by agencies concerned. The views of these agencies will be compiled for the defense minister within one week.

Thai Defense Minister: 'Star of Siam' Satellite Still Proposal

BK0804005296 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 7 Apr 96 p 18

[Report on interview with Defence Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut by Yuwadi Thanyasiri on Star of Siam satellite project; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Concerns that the military's proposed expenditure on armaments would have a serious effect on the current account deficit are an overreaction and premature, according to Defence Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut.

He said the 28-billion-baht price tag on a military satellite system for which he has been heavily criticised of late was merely a proposal. A great deal of details needed to be considered before any decisions were made.

"I've even been accused of changing specifications of the satellite system for concealed purposes," he said. "A man in my position would be responsible and intelligent enough to know that the proposed price is unrealistically high."

However, Defence Minister Chawalit said it was government policy for the transport and communications technologies to acquire a military satellite system. He said the initial task was to convince the Cabinet that acquisition of the system was important and worthwhile for both security and communications purposes.

But he said the proposal had yet to begin to take shape. It will have to be approved by Cabinet. Details needed to be worked out and proposed for further consideration. If Cabinet gives approval, the project would then begin.

If Cabinet, however, decides against it, the project would be scrapped. He also said it would be impossible for a satellite project costing as much as 28 billion baht to be approved.

Nevertheless, he said, the system was very important. For example, the satellite could detect movement in an area as small as one square metre.

It would reduce the need to deploy a large number of soldiers in border areas. Information received will be fast and accurate. In the event of an emergency, the satellite could cut the time; it takes to send troops to a hotspot by up to six hours.

Although the investment price seemed exorbitant, Gen Chawalit said the cost could be offset by private sector participation, citing projects such as the expressway, the Don Maung Tollway and the Hopewell mass transit projects.

Gen Chawalit, who leads the New Aspiration Party, also said he had never been in dispute over the project with fellow deputy premier Thaksin Chinnawat, whose business interests include satellites, and has been vocal in his opposition to the so-called Star of Siam project. Gen Chawalit said Mr Thaksin was correct when he said the price proposed by the Defence Ministry was too high.

Moving onto another big item in the military shopping list, the 17 billion baht proposal to buy two diesel-powered attack submarines Gen Chawalit said he had not seen the Navy's proposal. "As far as I know, the Navy has sought comments from Budget Bureau."

Whether submarines are necessary to the Navy or not, Gen Chawalit said he had yet to discuss the proposal with the Navy. If he was convinced it was, he would give it his fullest support. Otherwise, it will have to wait and give priority to what was considered more necessary.

Touching on other expenses such as harbour facilities, security and maintenance, Gen Chawalit said: "There are a lot of things I'd like to say but I cannot. But the factor of uppermost importance must be the national interest."

He did not think a submarine purchase would prompt other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to follow suit and stockpile weapons. During a recent seminar in Bangkok on ASEAN security, he said, much time was spent discussing the need between member states for cooperation.

Gen Chawalit also said the purpose of issuing the military white paper on national defence strategies is to show transparency of the direction of the military. The armed forces wanted people to know about the results of last month's international security seminar.

He went on to say that the 7th Thai Armed Forces Restructuring Plan would concentrate on various activities such as development of human resources and armaments.

For example, conscription would be abolished and replaced by voluntary enlistment. The issue is included in the five-year plan.

Volunteers will be given training to acquire skills such as electrical and mechanical engineering. For example, if a volunteer joined the military at the minimum age of 18, he would be on military training for one year. Four years later, he would be given enough time to train for civilian trade which would lead to a certificate or a degree.

When asked about military radio, which has several hundred stations, he said the armed forces needed their own facilities for security reasons. Despite Gen Chawalit's remarks, the situation has changed and military radio has been operated in the manner of private sector and has been selling air time.

Would the military consider giving the stations back to the people? Gen Chawalit said: "What we have the government will not touch. It will not intervene. The point is we should use it in the interest of the people as much as we can."

He added: "For example, the armed forces has a policy of human resource development. Military stations will be able to contribute greatly in this respect. Profit from selling air time can be spent on programmes which benefit society. But it will have to change gradually, a sudden change will be counter-productive.

"For the military programme, some Cabinet members and deputy ministers were angry about attacks against them on the military's 102.5 frequency. I have heard the complaints several times." He said: "I never listen to the programme but some Cabinet members want to have a debate on the subject."

Thailand: Protests Continue Near Government House

BK0504150196 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1200 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The protest rally organized near Government House by the Congress of Small-Scale Farmers continued for the eighth day today. No negotiations between representatives of the congress and government was held today. The protesters demanded a change of the head of the government delegation before the resumption of the talks, especially on the effects of dam projects and land conflicts.

Leading members of the Forum of the Poor left the meeting room yesterday before any settlement of the problems could be finalized. Meanwhile, talks between government officials and another group of protesters on land conflicts failed to make any progress.

However, workers of Piyawat Rubber Industry Factory today ended their protest rally after the factory paid compensation for laying them off.

Thailand: 'Rural Demonstrators' Issue Ultimatum To Government

BK0704113996 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 7 Apr 96 p A1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Protesters in front of Government House issued the administration an ultimatum: either it comes up with practical measures to resolve their demands in 24 hours, or the number of demonstrators will double from some 13,000 now.

Khuanphet Phonram, a rally leader, said that all talks with government representatives so far had failed to reach an agreement on any of the issues.

The government should start to seriously consider the consequence of another 10,000 demonstrators added to the existing 13,000 protesters, he warned.

Two thousand rural protesters affected by construction of an industrial waste landfill in Rayong province arrived today, he added.

The government claimed the rural demonstrators made exaggerated demands, obstructing both sides from reaching a quick settlement, the deputy secretary-general to the prime minister said yesterday.

Chongchai Thiangtham said one of the key issues leading to the collapse of talks was the mob's demand for Bt[baht]1.5 to 1.7 billion in compensation for villagers relocated to make way for the Sirinthon Dam in Ubon Ratchathani province.

"The government cannot agree to such a large demand, especially after allotting 15 rai per family affected by the construction," Chongchai said.

He said he was "surprised" that the villagers, who previously agreed to and had already received the land allotment, should demand money compensation as well. Khuanphet justified the demand by explaining that the compensation represented Bt50 per day for each villager who lost the opportunity to earn their living during the 26 years of conflict over relocation.

"I prefer to see Prime Minister Banhan chairing the meeting because he has the authority to make decisions on all issues," Khuanphet said.

MP Khunying Suphattra Matsadit, a main opposition Democrat executive, yesterday warned that the number of rural demonstrators was likely to increase if the conflict drags on.

MP Chamni Sakdiset (Democrat-Nakhon Si Thammarat), called for direct intervention from the prime minister.

Vietnam

SRV Prime Minister Receives Cuban State Bank President

BK0504153496 Hanoi VNA in English 1515 GMT 5 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA April 5 — Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received here today Mr. Francisco Soberon Valdez, Cuban minister and president of the State Bank, and his party who are now on a working visit to Vietnam at the invitation of the governor of State Bank of Vietnam.

The prime minister said that the strengthening of the friendship, solidarity and mutual assistance between Vietnam and Cuba are now more than ever before important to their respective revolutionary causes.

"Vietnam always stands side by side to Cuba and shares with it experiences in the fields required by Cuba," Mr. Kiet confirmed, expressing his hope that the fraternal cooperation between Vietnam and Cuba in general and the banking sectors in particular would be further developed in conformity with their traditional fine relations.

Minister Francisco Soberon Valdez noted that the achievements and experiences gained by Vietnam in its renovation process in general and the banking industry in particular are greatly significant and useful to Cuba.

He expressed the Cuban people's gratitude to the party, government and people of Vietnam for their comprehensive assistance in the recent past, especially at the time when Cuba was facing with hostile forces' embargoes. He said his country would do its best to improve and strengthen the fraternal friendly and cooperative relations between Vietnam and Cuba for each country's prosperity.

SRV: Party Journal Table of Contents for Nov 1995

963E0011A Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN No. 16 Nov 95 p 1

[This report is a translation of the table of contents and selected articles from the monthly theoretical and political journal of the Vietnam Communist Party published in Hanoi. Notations in the table of contents indicate articles previously published or not translated.]

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